Isabella

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Chapter 1

A Scenic Garden

There was a famous garden in Spain. In terms of its beauty and lushness, it could compare to Eden. It was brimming with tourists morning and evening. A number of scholars were sitting on one side and were having a religious discussion. The sun was setting. The natural chirping of the birds was pleasing the tourists. A Christian girl known in history as Isabella was sitting in a corner with a few friends and they were watching the scenery. Isabella was the daughter of a priest who was about seventeen or eighteen years old. On account of her great beauty and elegance she was like a damsel of paradise that was sent to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of a leader or an accepted person. However, her father wanted to keep her in the world, secluded like Maryam radhiyAllaah Tallau anha. He did not want her to be married and wanted her to be given religious knowledge. She had special affiliation for religious matters and used to participate in religious discussion with great zeal and enthusiasm.

In a corner of the garden a few Muslims were seated among rose bushes. On the outside, they seemed like religious scholars. They were discussing some issue.

The first person named Umar Lahmi said, "What is the meaning of the statement that St. Paul in his letter that religious law is a curse and 'Isa υ came and relieved us of this curse?"

The second person named Muaaz said laughingly, "You want to understand this from me when the Christian priests themselves..."

Isabella was sitting close by with her friends. Upon hearing 'the Christian priests themselves', she was shaken and **said** to one of her educated friends, "Look, these Muslims are talking about our religion. Come; let us quietly listen to their discussion."

Her friend said, "Sister, ever since the Muslims have come here, our religion faces a separate danger."

Isabella replied, "You have started your own subject. Keep quiet. Listen to what they say."

Umar Lahmi said, "**What did you say that the Christian priests themselves cannot understand it. Do they accept Christianity without understanding?"**

Muaaz said, "Yes. Pose this question to a high ranking priest and see what reply you get. That will come later. Tell me, what objection do you have on this line of St. Paul?" "I do not have any objection. I want to understand what it means. Due to the fact that you get the opportunity many times to speak to Christians and you have also studied their books, that is why I want to get an understanding of it from you. What I mean is that when religious law is a curse and

'Isa υ came to grant salvation to the Christians from this curse, then stealing, adultery and disobedience to ones parents will also become permissible, whereas no Christian is of the view that stealing and adultery is permissible."
Muaaz said, "I cannot understand what link there is between religious law being a curse and stealing and adultery."

Umar Lahmi replied, "What I mean is that the Tauraat is one Shari'ah in which religious law is recorded, that do not steal, do not commit adultery, do not give trouble to your neighbour, do not disobey your parents etc. Since seeing that the Shari'ah is accursed in entirety, then it will also be a curse to practice upon it. This is because these laws are also the Shari'ah, in fact, the essence of the Shari'ah. If the statement of St. Paul is correct, then the Christians should practice upon the sins of adultery, stealing etc. if they stay away from it like us, then they will be practising upon a Shari'ah that is accursed. The result of this is that all the Christians who stay away from stealing, adultery etc. are all accursed because they are practising upon the Shari'ah."
Muaaz said, "Purity belongs to Allaah Talla, you want to understand the same objection that I present to the Christians."

Umar Lahmi said, "Did you ever pose this objection before the Christians? What was their response?"

The Azaan for Maghrib began. They performed Wudhoo in a pond that was nearby and performed Salaah.

Isabella heard this conversation attentively because she was interested in religious matters. She therefore understood the weight of this objection. She put her mind through a lot of strain to answer the objection in order to make Umar Lahmi and Muaaz understand. However, despite deep thought, she could not understand any reply. With these thoughts, she got up with her friends saying that she will find the solution by posing the question to her father.

Isabella left her friends at a crossing and entered the Eastern gate of Cordova.

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Chapter Two

An Important Question

The beautiful and young Isabella took the road that led to Qasrush Shuhadaa upon entering the Eastern gate of Cordova. In those times, the Islaamic government made the entire Spain into a bride in terms of beauty and adornment. The roads of the city were wide and well laid. Close by, lamps were lit. Their light, according to Dr. Dyer, spread for twenty miles. Along the clean road of Qasrush Shuhadaa', in the light of the lamps, Isabella was walking home, deep in thought. There was a lot of tranquillity in her walk today as well. It was her practice that when she returned home after an evening stroll, she used to meet one or two of her friends. But today she went directly home with all the tranquillity and silence. She was diving in some deep thought. After half an hour she returned to her grand home where her servant was waiting for her. The servant greeted her immediately upon seeing her and enquired about her delay. Isabella gave her a short reply which consoled the servant. She entered the house, sat on the couch and began studying a book. In this time, the servant laid the table and called Isabella to the dining room. Isabella was so engrossed that she did not give any attention to the servant and carried on reading. She was

studying the Holy Bible. She was carefully studying the letter of St. Paul in which religious law was classified as a curse. She read the text again and again but could not understand the meaning. The more she thought about it, the more firm the objection became. The objection that she heard in one corner of the garden from two Muslims. Finally, when her mind was tired, she placed the book down and decided that this puzzle could not be solved without her father. He could easily reveal this mystery.

Deep down in her heart she said that what the need for this worry is. This is such a matter that cannot be solved, although I cannot understand it. For this reason it became important. However, my father will clear it like water. This is because there is no greater scholar in Spain regarding divine matters than him. Saying this, she sat down to eat. After eating, she sat down once again to study the Bible. After a little while she lied down and fell into a deep sleep. Upon awakening, she went to church because it was Sunday.

When returning from church, **the head priest called his beloved daughter and asked,** "Daughter, what lesson in divinity did you learn from the Bible today? This is because you are attaining mastery in the secrets of the Bible nowadays. Therefore, whichever matter seems difficult, you can ask me."

Kissing the hand of her father, **she said, "Today I studied chapter 3 of Jonah. If you permit me, I wish to ask a question because I have not understood it until now."**

He replied, "Surely, surely, definitely present it, daughter. I will clear your mind right now."

She said, "My question is that the twelve commandments that Our Lord gave to Hadhrat Musa (υ), are they not part of religious law?"
He replied, "Yes, all of them are linked to religious law."
She asked, "The second aspect is that the messenger Paul writes in one of his letters that religious law is a curse."

He replied, "Yes. Religious law is a curse and the Lord sent Jesus to grant us salvation from it. He was crucified and saved us from the punishment of religious law."

Isabella asked, "Good. We now learn that religious law is a curse, such a curse that our Lord had to be crucified in order to grant us salvation. **So, it is as though it means that practising upon religious law is also a curse."**

The priest said, "It is a curse in entirety and the Christians should now believe in the crucified Jesus because religious law was in force as long as our Lord was not crucified."
Isabella said, "So, are we permitted to steal?"

The priest replied, "What relation does this have with religious law? Look, daughter, think properly before raising objections. If someone hears us, they will make fools of us."

Isabella said, "Forgive me. Maybe I did not explain what I mean. What I mean is that among the laws you have

included as religious law, one of them is ‘do not steal’. Another command is ‘do not trouble your neighbour’. The fourth command is ‘do not disobey your parents’. Now, all these are part of religious law and according to the messenger Paul it is a curse. Therefore, to practice upon religious law, i.e. not stealing, not committing adultery etc. is also a curse. This clearly means that it is a curse not to steal and not to give ones parents’ trouble.”

The priest said, “O daughter, until now you have not understood the division of religious law. But first tell me from whom did you hear this baseless objection and which devil put these whispers into your heart?”

Upon this, Isabella told him of the entire discussions that took place between Umar Lahmi and Muaaz in the garden.

He said, “Daughter, you know that these Muslims are great disbelievers and have always been enemies of our holy religion. Objections on the holy books are as a result of devilish thoughts. Daughter, immediately repent and do not ever listen to any talk from the Muslims. They are irreligious and move about disgracing the true religion of others. Isabella my daughter, do you even know their religion? Bloodshed brings reward in their religion. Look, they fought in our country Spain and how many innocent lives did they take? How did they forcefully spread their religion? Now I know that you heard this objection from the Muslims. If this objection came from your heart, I would have solved it, but what part of their views should be answered?”

Isabella was now sorry and said in her heart that I took the name of the Muslims without right otherwise this problem would have been solved today. No fear, I will put this question to my teacher because I do ask questions like this during lessons, questions that I do not understand. Therefore, I will ask accordingly.

The next day, she presented the objection to her teacher but he could not give a logical answer to satisfy her. Until now, the poor Isabella thought that she could not understand due to her incomplete comprehension, otherwise, the religious leaders would have solved her problem like water. However, now she learnt that the matter was not simple. Subsequently, the doubt took root and became stronger every day.

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Chapter Three

A Letter

After a few days, Isabella and a few classmates and friends went back to the garden where they had found two Muslim scholars in a discussion. Isabella was sitting there when Umar Lahmi and Muaaz also came and began discussing different subjects.

Umar Lahmi said, "Today, I heard something strange and interesting."

Muaaz said in surprise, "What was it?" "How did the objection on the letter of the messenger Paul reach the ears of the head priest? Due to it, there was a commotion among the priests. We have also heard that some honourable people have become doubtful."

Muaaz said, "This seems like gossip. Who heard our talk that day?"

Umar Lahmi said, "Who heard our talk? Are the priests agitated without having heard what we said?" "What is the cause of the uneasiness? Did they hear our objection for the first time?" "I cannot tell you the reason. However, whatever I heard yesterday and the matter that has caused

commotion among the priests is our objection because there have been a number of meetings in order to solve the problem. I heard this from the Christians."

Muaaz said, "A commotion was created by just one objection on the Christians whereas all the beliefs of the Christians are ridiculous. **Is this matter any less hilarious that Aadam committed the sin and everyone got punished? And, on account of this, every person became sinners? Does this matter have any less sense that a sinless human being is punished in lieu of the sinners and the son of god came to the world in order to relieve them and died by crucifixion? Is it anything less than perfection that a weak person is made into a deity?** If the answers to all these objections are with the Christians, then they should come and explain them."

Laughing, Umar Lahmi said, "If these illogical things did not come from the Christians, then how can their perfection become apparent? Everyone talks sense but there has to be someone who invents nonsense as well." "I feel that we should take some benefit from this commotion among the Christians." "The decision is understandable. My opinion is that we should publish a poster at this time. We should write all the illogical things of the Christians in it." "Very good. I think that this poster will cause a commotion among all the Christians of Spain."

In a corner of the garden, Isabella and two of her friends were listening to this conversation with great interest. She was grinding her teeth in anger. Finally, she could not bear it and said to her friend that we must answer their

objections and we should satisfy them in every way. It is possible that the Lord will draw them to Him. If these Muslims accept Christianity, then it will be such a victory for the Christians of Spain that the Muslims will never be able to lift their heads. Isabella looked towards the sky and said, "O Lord, draw these disbelievers and enemies of Christianity towards You so that Your honour can become apparent in the world."

Her friend said, "Sister Isabella, these disbelievers are very severe. How can they take the path of the Lord Jesus and leave the devil? The problem is that our priests fear these disbelievers. It was just yesterday that I saw your enquiry about religious law being a curse put forward to the priest of our class. He brushed the question aside saying that we should not pay attention to the talk of these disbelievers. **Their answer is not discussion. The only correct answer to them is the sword.** If this is the condition of our priest, then why should the Muslims not become arrogant?"

Isabella said, "The thing is that our priests do not like to talk to these disbelievers and they keep silent. Their silence does not mean that the problem cannot be solved. When they know that after solving the issues, many Muslims will be ready to embrace Christianity then they will happily reply."

Her friend said "Then take a written promise from the Muslims that they will talk face to face with the priests. In this way, the priests will be forced to reply and on the other side, these disbelievers will be ready to accept our religion."

“Very good, but will these Muslims be ready to accept this?”

“Why not, what did you just hear from them?” “Then why delay?
Tell them to get ready to discuss with our priests. I will write it out. Give it to them immediately. See what reply they give.”

“First ask our scholars. It should not be that these disbelievers are ready and our scholars are not.”
“If we get a response from them saying that they will accept Christianity if their questions are solved, then our scholars will definitely be ready.”

Isabella then wrote,

‘Please forgive me for eavesdropping on your private conversation. We heard it very attentively. Due to the fact that we are also interested in religious discussion, you will not find our intrusion to be in vain. **You just said to your companion that if the Christian priests can explain the link between religious law and curse, then we will become Christians.** You also want to challenge the Christians on this issue. Therefore, as servants of the Lord Jesus, we accept your challenge on condition that you give a written undertaking of your acceptance. [A servant of Christianity]’

The friend went and gave this letter to Umar Lahmi. He immediately showed it to Muaaz and happily wrote the following reply,

'We thank you for the trouble. I testify that if your religious elders can explain the dilemma of religious law and curse, then I give my word that my friend and I will accept Christianity. Tell us where and what time should we come for the discussion. [A servant of Islaam, Umar Lahmi]'
Reading this, **Isabella replied,** 'I will come myself tomorrow and tell you of the time and place. [A Servant]'

After leaving the garden of Cordova, the first worry of Isabella was to prepare a Christian scholar who would debate with the Muslims. Before returning home, she went to her merciful teacher. She told him the entire chain of events. Her teacher (who was a great priest himself) rebuked her when he saw her worry. He also said that is this such a matter that deserves such uneasiness. She also showed him the letter of Umar Lahmi that he wrote today in the garden. In it was his promise that he and his friends will become Christians if their questions are solved. The teacher felt that the matter needed to be taken forward and felt the need for the help of a few famous Christian scholars. He consoled Isabella and saw her off. He said that we will stipulate afternoon the next day as the time for the debate. Isabella spent the night restless and this question whirled in her head throughout the night. She continually had the thoughts of what will happen the next day. If our Christian scholars do not answer the Muslims' questions, then the nose of the Christians throughout Spain will be cut forever. Morning came and she completed her habitual practices. She then took the Holy Bible and began studying. She and a number of friends headed for the priests' home at

noon and found the high standing priests of the city there. They were waiting for someone to arrive. In this time, a priest came and a chair was given to him. After this, the girls’ teacher first praised the Lord of the Christians and then explained the purpose and objective of the gathering. He fervently requested the scholars to take up courage and be ready to face them and strive to convert the disbelievers to Christianity.

The first priest said, “It did cross my mind that we do not know why we were called here. It could be some important matter. But on arriving here we learnt that the matter is not so serious. Call the disbelievers now; one of us will console him.

The second said, “The fact is that the matter is not very important because we are always debating with the Muslims. Because this matter has become famous that the Christians do not have any answers to the objections of the Muslims, that is why the matter has become important. Stipulate a time for the discussion.”

One person then said, “Tomorrow is Sunday and all the Christians gather in the main church. Therefore, call the Muslims to the church in the morning. The Holy Ghost will possibly guide them.”

A priest said, “The suggestion is logical.” (Looking towards Isabella).

He then said, “The father of this girl, who leads the prayer in the main church should be present. It is possible that something comes up that we will need to ask him. This is because you are the intermediary between the Muslims and us.”

The second person said, “The girl’s father is the head priest of Spain and everyone knows that there is no one who knows the secrets of Christianity better than him. Therefore, his attendance is of utmost importance.”

Michael (Isabella’s teacher) said, “Indeed, indeed.”

All the people agreed and Sunday was stipulated for the debate. Upon the request of Isabella, Michael also wrote a permit for Umar Lahmi so that he could easily enter the church.

There was about an hour and half for sunset. Isabella did her important work before going to the garden. In this time her two friends arrived. They all left for the garden. When they reached, they saw Umar Lahmi and Muaaz sitting. Today, unusually, there were a number of other people there as well. Isabella gave the permit given by Michael to Muaaz. It was opened and read by everyone.

Looking at Isabella, **Muaaz said,** “We are very grateful for the difficulty undertaken. If anyone from the two groups gets guidance, then the reward will go first to you.”

Umar Lahmi addressed the others, “This woman is a master of Christian philosophy and studied divinity. Look what enthusiasm she has and what pious intentions she has

that she wants to take us out from the darkness of 'disbelief'.

Isabella said, "I am but a lowly servant of the Lord Christ and I am grateful for accepting our invitation."

When hearing 'Lord Christ', **a Muslim said,** "I seek forgiveness from Allaah Talla. Look what polytheists these Christians are. They say that Hadhrat 'Isa υ is a deity. Definitely, their intelligence has been snatched away. Otherwise, a person walking around..."

Umar Lahmi said, "You have started a new subject. This will be decided in the main church tomorrow." He said to Isabella, "Tell the head priest that we will come to the main church after breakfast."

Hearing this, Isabella went with her friends and did not sit in the garden today as normal because she had to do many arrangements and consultations for the gathering tomorrow.

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Chapter Four

The First Meeting

Isabella reached home. On the other side, Umar Lahmi and Muaaz reached home and began to study the Qur'aan and the Holy Bible. They noted the important points they needed to bring up. On Sunday morning it was learnt that the fame of this debate spread throughout the city and the Christians made arrangements that none but a few Muslims were to be allowed entry into the church. It happened according to plan and many Muslims returned home despondent. Umar Lahmi, Muaaz and a few scholars of Cordova entered the church after taking permission. When they entered, they came to know that the great priests of Cordova were gathered there already and were in prostration praying for the guidance of the Muslims. After a little while, the debate started. Isabella and her friends all participated in the gathering.

Michael said, "We have come to know that you have certain doubts about Christianity. You have come to remove them. You also promised that if you get satisfactory

answers, then you will leave Islaam and accept Christianity."

Umar Lahmi replied, "We have no doubt about the beliefs and teachings of Christianity but we have complete conviction that they are baseless. If you satisfy us and explain your beliefs, then we are all ready to accept Christianity."
After this, Michael indicated towards an elderly person to take part in the debate. The moment he got the indication, he came and sat close to Umar Lahmi. His name was **Petrus.** He was understood to be a master in Arabic sciences and Islaamic studies. He also had the pride of writing a number of books against Islaam. In summary, he was taken to be the most able in Spain from all those against the Muslims to speak.

He addressed Umar Lahmi in a tone conveying superiority and command, "I heard that you have a major objection that St. Paul called religious law a curse. Leave it, for these are subsidiary issues. We should debate foundational issues. You are Muslims and believe in the Qur'aan. The decision to be passed on Jesus and Christianity should be from this Qur'aan."

Umar Lahmi replied, "I specified the topic of discussion in the letter just as you had affirmed, but now you have gone into another subject. When I wrote that the debate would be about religious law and curse, then you have no excuse."

Petrus said, "We will reply to your original question. First decide on the foundational topic and that too, from your

Qur'aan. Is our Lord Christ not called the soul of Allaah Talla and the word of Allaah Talla in your book? Is it not mentioned that he used to raise the dead? If you believe in the Qur'aan, then what doubt is there in the Lord Christ being the son of God?"

Umar Lahmi said, "You have started another topic which is not even linked to something far from my objective. If you are ready for it, then discuss, otherwise let us take leave."

Petrus said, "I presented the Qur'aan before you and I want the foundational issue to be decided, but you are moving away from the principle issue and are going into subsidiary matters. From this it is clearly known that you have no answer for it."

Umar Lahmi, "Very well. You also want to discuss foundational issues, but moving away from your religion and going to the Qur'aan. **If you want to discuss foundational issues, then first come and discuss whether Hadhrat Aadam υ sinned or not. If it is proven that he sinned, then we will discuss whether the sin was transferred from one generation to the next, i.e. by Hadhrat Aadam υ sinning, does every person have sinfulness in his nature or not?** If every person is a sinner, then we will discuss the method of removing the sin. We will then prove the innocence of Jesus in the light of the Bible. After this, you will have to prove that Jesus was God and only God can remove the sins of man. Once all this has been proven, you will have to prove that Jesus was crucified and he stayed in hell for three days in lieu of all the sinless, not what the Qur'aan says about him."

Petrus replied, “All this is irrelevant. We want to prove from the Qur’aan that Jesus the spirit of Allaah Talla was the word of Allaah Talla. He gave life to the dead and therefore Christianity is the true religion.”

Pointing towards Isabella, **Umar Lahmi said,** “I accept you to be the judge in this matter and I ask you the reason for calling us here.” He then addressed Isabella, “Sister, you will have to decide about what I wrote in the letter and why have you brought us here.”

Isabella said, “The foundational discussion was regarding whether religious law is a curse or not. If it is, then why have the Christians chose it and become accursed. However, the objection of the honourable father (Petrus) is also justified. My decision is that your objection should be answered then the honourable father will pose some questions in the light of the Qur’aan.”

Umar Lahmi said, “This is suspended on my happiness. I leave the floor open. I promise that when you answer my question, I shall permit you to ask any questions. But in accordance to my promise I shall become a Christian, then there will be no need for more questions”

Petrus said, “Well sir, explain your question with some clarity that what do you mean by it.”

“Every point of mines should be responded to. In this way, the purport will become completely clear. Tell me, the laws in the Tauraat of ‘do not commit adultery’, ‘do not steal’,

'do not murder', 'do not trouble your neighbour' etc. Are they religious laws? Do they have any link with religious law."

Petrus said, "Definitely. All the laws are linked to the religious law." "What is the ruling of St. Paul regarding the religious law?" "What ruling, I do not understand?" "You have understood very well, but you are avoiding from responding. Tell me, did St. Paul call the religious law a curse or not?" "St. Paul has called religious law a curse in this sense that the essence of religious law came in the form of the Lord Jesus. To break ones head over the outer covering, leaving the essence is foolishness. If it is not foolishness, then what is it?"

Umar Lahmi said, "My meaning is also this that St. Paul referred to Jesus as the soul and religious law and the body and called it a curse. In accordance to your Tauraat, this ruling is related to religious law. Therefore, it is a curse to refrain from killing and adultery." "The thing is that you cannot understand these mysteries without the help of the Holy Ghost. It is also not necessary that whichever ruling you do not understand is incorrect. St. Paul said that the bodily religious law is a curse and not every type of religious law."

Umar Lahmi replied, "I accept. Indeed St. Paul said that the bodily religious law is a curse. Now, tell me, is refraining from adultery, stealing, hurting ones parents etc. Bodily religious law or does it relate to the inside and the soul and character?" "Now you have come to something. Listen, the statement of the Lord Jesus comes before the

statement of St. Paul that you should practice upon the commandments of the Tauraat. [See the Holy Bible Matthew 5, 19 to 10, 25]”

Umar Lahmi said, “It is as though it is necessary to practice upon the Tauraat for salvation. If this is true, then why was the crucifixion of Jesus fabricated?, i.e. when it has been deemed necessary to practice upon the Tauraat, then why was this problem of atonement made up? What, after the atonement of Jesus, is it necessary to practice upon the Tauraat?”

Petrus replied, “We know nothing except that the Lord told us to practice upon the Tauraat. However, a person cannot get salvation by practising upon religious law without atonement.”

Umar Lahmi said, “So Musa υ, Dawud υ, Sulayman υ, Ayyub υ, Yusuf υ, Nuh υ and all the prophets were deprived of salvation because the only means of salvation they had was practising on the religious law. Also, the nations of these prophets were deprived of salvation.”

Petrus said, “Before Jesus, the only means of salvation was religious law but the Lord changed this way of atonement. Instead of this he made atonement a means of salvation.”

Umar Lahmi said, “First you rejected the statement of St. Paul that religious law is not a curse then you rejected religious law being a basis of salvation. Do you have any proof in the form of the statement of a pious luminary of

yours that what St. Paul said regarding religious law being a curse is not correct?”

One person said, “People, discussing all these matters is clear apostasy and disbelief. They are all related to hidden secrets. **St. Paul definitely called religious law a curse and it is a curse. However, you do not have the capacity to understand these secrets.** The means of our salvation is the deification of our Lord Jesus and atonement because He was pure from sin and an embodiment of divinity who was lifted on the cross substituting us and we were saved.”

Another person said, “Do not fight amongst yourselves. You have begun to reject the honourable Petrus.”

Umar Lahmi said, “This is the end result of incorrect and baseless talk. Now, another person started talking about atonement and divinity. First finish the discussion on religious law and curse.”

Petrus said, “You were given a satisfactory answer. You are given a further 8 days grace. If your doubts are not removed in this time, then you can come here again.”

Umar Lahmi said, “You do not take religious law to be a curse and your brother says that religious law is a curse. St. Paul wrote the truth. Tell me, who of the two are correct.”

Petrus said, “Those who say this do not know the secrets of Christianity. Therefore, do not pay attention to any of their talk.”

Umar Lahmi replied addressing Isabella, "Tell me, which one of the two is correct? **Did St. Paul make a mistake in stating that religious law is a curse?"**

Isabella said, "I have come to listen to your discussion. Therefore, I cannot interrupt any one of you. However, I request my teacher Michael – considering his ability and intelligence – to try and explain this matter because, let alone the honourable guests I have also not understood it until now."

These words of Isabella struck like lightning in the gathering and every person looked at the other. In this time, **Michael stood and addressed them,**

"Brothers, we have gathered in order to scrutinize religion. Indeed this is a blessed work but the condition is that the heart should be sincere and an urge to accept the truth. Belief is such a thing that a person cannot be successful through his own effort in it, until Allaah Talla does not guide him. Therefore we and you should pray to Allaah Talla before Him with earnestness that He opens the reality with the help of the Holy Ghost. And that He grants us the understanding of Christianity. (All the Christians present said Amen loudly).

People, it is a useless subject whether religious law is a curse or not. The reality is that our Muslim brothers are not aware of Christian principles and beliefs. That is why they are discussing baseless things. **The summary of our religion is in two things. The divinity of Christ and**

atonement. He who understands these two things, it is as though he has understood all the secrets of Christianity. What a great bounty of God it is that He sent His only son for our salvation – who came to the world and underwent difficulty for us and was finally crucified so that our sins could be atoned. Therefore, I request Umar Lahmi and his companions to leave the useless subject of religious law and curse and to ponder over the unparalleled atonement of the Lord Jesus and to believe in Christianity."

Umar Lahmi replied, "We have not come here for mere talk. We are bound by a rule and we should be discussing the basic subject. We stipulated our subject of discussion on the paper. Our sister Isabella was witness to it. Now you want that we should leave the original discussion and discuss varying thoughts on divinity and atonement. I am also ready for this on condition that you write that we will leave the discussion of religious law and begin to talk about divinity and atonement."

Petrus said, "We do not mean that you should leave the discussion. Our objective is that you should leave baseless subsidiary matters and ponder over principle matters."

Umar Lahmi replied, "Then why did you call us here? There is no need for a church or Masjid in order to ponder. If you do not want to discuss, then tell us clearly so that our time is not wasted."

Michael said, "You have misunderstood the lecture of the honourable Petrus. He did not mean that we should stop the

discussion completely. He meant that you should ponder over the foundational matters then ask. It is now afternoon. You have to eat as well. Tell us when you will come again."

Umar Lahmi said, "This time is very appropriate. Who knows if we will get this blessed time in the future or not?"
Michael replied, "You also have to pray, do you not?"

Umar Lahmi said, "We shall pray in this church. It is not conditional for the place to be a Masjid in Islaam."

Petrus said, "I feel that we should begin the discussion once again next week Sunday." "I think that we should not delay this discussion. Possibly, Allaah Talla | will bless us with guidance."

Michael said, "Well, we shall begin discussing tomorrow at this time and we shall finish in the afternoon."

Isabella then said, "If we delay the discussion until tomorrow, then it will not finish in the afternoon but we should carry on until the evening so that we could reach a conclusion."

Michael said, "Never, do we not have any other work?" "According to me, there is no other work more important than this."

It was decided that the gathering would be held once again the next day from morning to afternoon. Umar Lahmi

thanked the Christians and went home. The priest and Isabella remained seated in the church.

One priest said, “It is regrettable that you people gave these ‘disbelievers’ a chance to raise objections and mock at Christianity. The treatment for these irreligious people is only that the Qur’aan should be placed before them. The honourable Petrus chose this method in the beginning but they came out of it through their sharp thinking and stayed with the discussion of religious law. If this method is adopted tomorrow, then we will have to face great difficulty tomorrow because **whatever they ask is from the divine secrets which can only be understood by the pious friends of God.”**

Michael said, “In fact, the beginning of the discussion was wrong, otherwise they could have been pushed back from the Qur’aan. Is it not written in the Qur’aan that the Lord Jesus creates and gives life? Does the Qur’aan not say that he is the word of Allaah Talla and the soul of Allaah Talla?”

Petrus replied, “But the topic for tomorrow has been chosen. **We will be discussing divinity of Jesus and atonement.** Look, I wanted to move them away from that path but Michael kept them firm.”

Michael said, “Do not accuse me. All this is your doing.”

Another person said, “What benefit is there in fighting amongst ourselves? It will be seen when we discuss

divinity tomorrow. This Christian religion is not something weak that a person touches it and it breaks.

After these conversations, all the Christians left the church and spread in all four directions. Isabella and her friends and classmates left the church and spoke on the way.

Isabella said, “Did you see, it is said behind the backs of the Muslims that they cannot face us but the reality has become apparent in front of everyone. It is regrettable that my father went home immediately upon completing prayer for some important work. He had confidence in the knowledge and ability of Michael and Petrus, otherwise he would have silenced those ‘disbelievers’.”

Her friend replied, “The fact is that the question is very difficult. What could your father have done?”

Another friend said, “According to what I feel, our beliefs and principles are weak, otherwise, why did our priests have to face such disgrace.”

Isabella said, “I seek forgiveness, I seek forgiveness. We have been shaken by just one discussion. Our beliefs are very firm but there should be someone to explain them. Tomorrow we shall discuss the divinity of Jesus. We will see how these disbelievers fare.”

The girls reached a crossing and they left for their homes from there.

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Chapter Five

The Second Meeting

On Monday the priests began coming to the church and many women came with Isabella in order to hear and enjoy the discussion. After a little while, Umar Lahmi, Muaaz and a few other scholars also arrived. The moment they arrived, the faces of the priests changed. They were talking quietly amongst themselves.

Umar Lahmi addressed the gathering,

"As it was decided yesterday, we will discuss the divinity of Christ and atonement today. We cannot discuss both at the same time, so we will choose one to debate."

Petrus replied, "Both matters are one in reality and they are related. You can talk about whichever one you want."

Umar Lahmi recited a few verse of Surah Furqaan. The effects of it changed the face of Isabella. It became so much that she fell unconscious. Her friends immediately held her

and woke her up. Petrus and Michael asked her why she fell unconscious but she did not reply and warm tears ran down her red soft face. With great difficulty Isabella was brought to her senses. When they asked her she said that she was having fits during the last month. Do not worry, carry on with the discussion. Some priests thought that some effect of Islaam fell upon Isabella. But this discussion of hers removed their doubts. The discussion began once again.

After a little while, **Umar Lahmi stood up and said,** “People, it was told to us that the basis of Christian belief is the divinity of Christ and atonement. I only want to ask one thing concerning atonement. In this, the divinity of Christ will also be solved. **What was the need for the son of God for atonement? A pious person could have been chosen for this purpose who could have been crucified in lieu of the sins of mankind. Why was the son of God crucified for this reason?”**

The honourable Petrus was once again chosen to reply to this question. He was in a very delicate position. He was shaking greatly and said with a stammer, “There was a need for the son of God for atonement because every man, whether he is a Nabi or a Rasul, is a sinner. It is quite apparent that a sinner cannot intercede for a sinner. Christ was the only sinless son of God and for this reason he was crucified for the sake of the sinners.”

Umar Lahmi replied, “Very good, but tell me what was crucified? Was the divinity of Christ crucified and atonement was achieved or was the humanity of Christ

crucified? If the divinity of Christ was crucified, then we learn that the being of God alone bore the difficulty of the cross and death came to the being of God, as though God died. If you say that the humanity in Christ was crucified, then he bore all the difficulty. In this case, your answer will be useless because in this case, it would have been appropriate to crucify a person, not God. In both cases, the humanity of Christ should have been crucified, not his divinity."

Petrus said, "Indeed Christ was complete in divinity and humanity, i.e. both were found in him to a complete degree but his humanity was sinless just like his divinity. Therefore, he was necessary for atonement because the rest of mankind are sinners. They could not suffice for atonement."

Umar Lahmi replied, "It is as though there was no sinless person in the world who could serve for atonement. God Himself had to come from the skies and by coming here also His divinity was not crucified, but His humanity was crucified. **If He was searching for a sinless person, then why did He not create such a person instead of coming Himself.** Such a person who was sinless and would have died for atonement on the cross instead of God."

Petrus said, "God only knows His secrets. We cannot say why He did so and why He came into the world for this. However, we learn one thing. God's coming to the world for atonement shows his complete love and affection. It is as though God showed so much love upon His servants that He sent His only son who gave his life in lieu of others.

This objective could never be fulfilled by God sending someone other than His son.”

Umar Lahmi replied, “If God wanted to show so much love, then why did He not send His son from the beginning? Did He not have a relationship with the creation that came before Hadhrat ‘Isa υ? Why did He show His love after thousands of years?

Petrus replied, “We do not have knowledge of this secret. God alone knows His secrets.” “My question remains. Nothing comes out of saying ‘secret’, ‘secret’. Tell me, when His humanity was sacrificed, then God’s coming Himself was proven useless. Someone else could have been sacrificed.” “I have given the reply that atonement could not happen with another person because they are sinners. The atonement of the humanity of Christ happened because of his sinless nature and innocence.” “Since seeing that the humanity of Christ was sinless and innocent, it was necessary that the sins of mankind be placed on him! O Priest, you cannot understand your own logic. Now tell me, what problem would there have been if the only son of God did some good deed that would have overcome the sins of everyone instead of taking their sins over his head? In this case, the sins of others would not have been placed on the sinless Christ nor would he have died on the cross nor would the argument of humanity and divinity come up. **The cure for sin is good. Christ should have done some good deed after coming here that would**

have sufficed the sins of all and not that he commits suicide in lieu of the sins."

Petrus said, "We cannot tell God what to do. He did as He wanted. It is your insolence to teach God a lesson."

Umar Lahmi said, "You know that Hadhrat 'Isa υ was born from the stomach of Hadhrat Maryam radhiyAllaah Tallau anha. Was this birth related to man or to God, i.e. was God born or was a person born?"
Petrus said, "God is pure from birth. The humanity that was within Christ was born." "And who died on the cross, God or man?" "God is pure from death. Man died on the cross, i.e. the humanity within Christ." "As though birth and death are related to the humanity of Christ, not his divinity." "Indeed, indeed."

Umar Lahmi took the book of Job from the Holy Bible and **said, "Look it is written in Job 14, 15 that whoever is born from a woman is a sinner.** Due to the fact that the divinity in him was not born, but the humanity in him, **therefore in accordance to the decision of Hadhrat Ayyub υ, the humanity of Christ was also sinful. Look in Romans 6, 23 it is written that the punishment for sin is death, i.e. death is proof that the one who died is a sinner.** You said that the divinity of Christ was not crucified but his humanity was, for this reason, his humanity is also proven to be sinful. Therefore, your statement that Christ was crucified and served for atonement (according to our research proves he was a

sinner). So the same question arises that why did God not create another sinful person to be crucified so that the divinity of God could be protected? According to another statement of yours, a sinner cannot serve as atonement for another sinner. Therefore Christ did not complete the atonement."

Worried and sweating, Petrus said, "We have already said that all these are the secrets of God. God did as He wished. Who are you and I to object?"
Umar Lahmi replied, "If your religion is based on mystery, then why did you call us here? And why did you waste our valuable time for two weeks?"

Isabella had a special interest for divine matters. Therefore she heard this conversation attentively and said to herself in her heart that these priests are taking the cover of God's secrets.

In this time, Michael stood up and said, "People, today there is a confrontation between Christianity and Islaam. Do you know what the religion of Islaam is about? It has made it compulsory to keep four wives. It commands people to kill the non-Muslims, the messenger of Islaam married eleven women and ...."

Umar Lahmi replied, "If you cannot answer our questions, then say so clearly. Then, if you have objections on Islaam, present them. We are all ready to answer. Is this your character that you call us to your home and instead of answering, you give heart rending talks?" Pointing to

Isabella he said, “Tell me, is this way of the priests appropriate or not?”

Hearing this, Isabella could not take it. She spoke a few words. She was awestruck. **She said,** “I heard the discussion from beginning to end and I am ashamed to say that the honourable Petrus could not reply, nor could Michael. The request of Umar Lahmi is totally correct. Either to answer his questions or admit defeat. But I think that you will not attest nor reject. This discussion should be ended here so that the Christian religion is not mocked at and the veil of your superficial knowledge is not opened. It is quite astonishing that ...”

Petrus said, “Isabella! Have you not become insane? Why have you come down to such nonsensical talk?” He addressed the people and said, “Definitely a devil has come over the head of this girl. She has gone far from Christ. It will not be surprising if she is gone mad.”

Isabella said, “Instead of venting your anger on me, it is better that you answer the questions of the Muslims or end the discussion. I do not want to answer the allegations made against me here. If this is the result of my frankness, then never mind, accept me to be mad.”

Michael said, “Girl, will you not keep quiet? Talking wildly like that? We answered all the questions of the Muslims. If you have the courage, then come forward and answer.”

One priest said, “Yes, it seems that this girl has turned apostate. What reply will she give to the Muslims? Her

father should be informed and she should be taken from here.”

Katherine – a friend of Isabella’s said, “It is regrettable that they were not just. They all jumped on poor Isabella. Someone is proving her to be mad. Something is shouting at her, but they are not paying attention to the object. Isabella is correct that we could not solve the questions of Umar Lahmi. This however does not mean that Christianity is false, but you are incapable and are so incompetent that you are disgracing Christianity.”
Petrus said, “Take these girls away from here. Who told them to interrupt our talk?”

Umar Lahmi said, “If you permit me, I will explain what Isabella is trying to say.”

Michael said, “Do not interrupt our talk. This is regarding us.”

Another priest said, “If Isabella and Katherine both turned apostate, then?”

Michael said, “We cannot say this right now. I think that these girls are ignorant. They want that a decision should be passed quickly, whereas months, nay, years are needed in order for such matters to be decided.”

In summary, the girls were criticised in the gathering and various accusations were levelled against them. In this commotion Umar Lahmi recited a few verses of Surah Maryam in his melodious voice. The entire gathering was dumbstruck when they heard it. Great priests put their

fingers in the ears so that the Qur'aan does not affect their hearts. This was because Hadrat 'Isa υ and his mother are praised in Surah Maryam and they were acquitted from all the accusations the Jews levelled against them. Consequently, a special effect of Surah Maryam came over the Christians. Isabella's face was shining. She held her silence and sat separately. After the recitation she stood up and said, "People, bear witness that I am firm on Christianity. I am a devout Christian. I do not want Christianity to be disgraced. I do not mean that we do not have any answers to their questions. What I mean is that our priests are not paying attention to answering. This is because they understand that the help of the Holy Ghost is required to understand the Christian beliefs. The Muslims think that we are weak due to this. It is hoped that through these words of mine, all the misunderstanding about me will be removed."

A priest said, "We do not ever need to talk to these disbelievers. By the discussion our faith has been shaken. I think that these disbelievers should be immediately removed from this church."

Another priest said, "Do not speak out of emotion. Decide on the matter after thinking properly. I also think that the discussion should be ended because there is no benefit in it."

Umar Lahmi said, "People, you pride about the teachings of your God that a person should present his second cheek if the first is slapped. But what is it that I see here? Were we forced to come here? Did you not call us here? Even

now, if you say that you do not wish to talk to us, then we shall immediately leave. But let me tell you that we have completed our proof against you and Allaah Talla will not let our efforts go in vain. Now tell us if you want us to go or do you wish to discuss?"

Petrus said, "Respected scholar, the reality is that you cannot understand Christianity, nor did you come here for this reason. If you want to carry on the discussion, then you will have to answer our questions."
Umar Lahmi said, "Very well, I give you permission to ask whatever you wish. We will answer coolly."

Petrus said, "Is the Injeel praised in the Qur'aan? Do you believe in the Holy Injeel?" "Indeed the Injeel is praised in the Qur'aan and we all Muslims believe in the Injeel, Tauraat, Zaboor and the other books revealed to the messengers." "So why do you not accept our Injeel?"

"Because it is not the Injeel. If someone fabricates something and calls it the Injeel, then we are not bound to believe in it because the name of it is Injeel. Present before us the Injeel that the Qur'aan has praised." "Is the Injeel mentioned in the Qur'aan something else and this Injeel something else? What is the proof of this?" **"This is because the Qur'aan has praised the original Injeel and has belied this one.** It has also corrected the wrong things in it." **"What are the wrong things in the Injeel?" "For example, in the Gospel of Matthew, 12, 46 and 50 it is stated that Hadhrat Maryam radhiyAllaah Tallau anha is a disbeliever, but the Qur'aan has given her the title of 'Siddiqua'.** This means that she was not a disbeliever,

but a believer and pious. **Similarly, in the Gospel of Matthew 12, 46 and 50 it is stated that Hadhrat 'Isa υ was insolent and used to disrespect his mother, whereas there is a firm command in the Tauraat to honour and respect ones Mother.** The Qur'aan however states that Hadhrat 'Isa υ said that he was commanded to follow his mother and be good to her. **Another example is that it is written in the Injeel that Hadhrat 'Isa υ is accursed, and on account of this curse he was crucified.** However, the Qur'aan calls him the soul of Allaah Talla, the word of Allaah Talla and one who is honoured in this world and in the Aakhirah. See Galatians 3, 12."

A person said, "What you are saying is incorrect. It is stated in the Injeel that he is God."

Umar Lahmi replied, "Indeed it is written so. It is also surprising that God can be accursed according to you. As though you believe in God and send curses upon him and you did not think for a moment that Allaah Talla I is the centre of all goodness and the fountain head of perfection, how can he be deserving of curses? The one who deserves curses in reality is Shaytaan, not God. Islaam on the other hand accepts Hadhrat 'Isa υ to be a man and not God. At the same time it has kept him as free from sin and innocent. Tell me is an accursed God better, or an innocent pure man?"

Petrus said, "The discussion pertains to why you do not believe in the Injeel. **You have started the discussion on curses. If you have a copy of the original Injeel – one that the Qur'aan verifies – then present it."**

Umar Lahmi said, “You have no right to ask this of us. First accept your Injeel to be fabricated, made up and concocted. Then request the real Injeel. I have proven that the Qur’aan does not verify this present Injeel, but denies it and has opened up and explained all its mistakes. Tell me, can the Injeel of the Qur’aan be that one which calls Hadhrat ‘Isa υ God and says that he was placed on the cross and killed? The Qur’aan says that Hadhrat ‘Isa υ said, “Indeed I am the servant of Allaah Talla”, “And they did not kill him or crucify him”. Did the Qur’aan verify or deny your Injeel?”

Petrus said, “Does the Qur’aan not state that Hadhrat ‘Isa υ is the soul of Allaah Talla and the word of Allaah Talla? Is this not proof that he is above humanity?”

Umar Lahmi said, “Indeed it is written as you say but the Qur’aan states that the words of Allaah Talla are countless. Consequently it is mentioned that if the ocean were to become ink and the trees pens, then too, the words of Allaah Talla cannot be written. This is because they are countless. So, Hadhrat ‘Isa υ is also one of the countless words of Allaah Talla. Regarding him being the soul of Allaah Talla, it is also not proven from here that he was above humanity, i.e. a God. This is because these very words are used regarding Hadhrat Aadam υ, ‘When I formed him, then I breathed from My soul into him’. **So, Hadhrat Aadam υ is exactly like Hadhrat ‘Isa υ. If he is God, then Aadam and all his progeny are also gods.”**

Petrus replied, “If the Qur’aan states that Aadam is also the soul of Allaah Talla, then the Qur’aan is wrong. Besides the Christian God, there is no other soul of God.”

Umar Lahmi said, “According to you, the entire Qur’aan is wrong because you wanted to prove that Hadhrat ‘Isa υ is a God from the Qur’aan. Therefore, I showed you from the Qur’aan that Hadhrat ‘Isa υ is not a God. If he was God on account of being the soul of Allaah Talla, then it would have also called Hadhrat Aadam υ God. If this Qur’aan is wrong according to you, then why present the Qur’aan?”

Isabella said, “But why do you call Muhammad God, whereas he commanded bloodshed and killing of the disbelievers?” “I seek forgiveness from Allaah Talla. I seek His protection from this belief. We only believe our Messenger to be a man, but he is the head and crown of all the Messengers. The summary of our beliefs is ‘There is no deity but Allaah Talla and Muhammad is the Rasul-Messenger of Allah’. He who believes that Muhammad ρ is a God has left the fold of Islaam and is a disbeliever. Regarding him laying the foundation of bloodshed, then it is also incorrect. He did however fight the disbelievers. This was because the disbelievers wanted to destroy him and his religion. He did not touch those who did not do this. The Qur’aan only commands to fight those who fight you.”
For some time, the priests of Europe had misunderstandings about Islaam and they used to level unfounded accusations upon it. This priest wanted to disgrace them by saying that the Muslims believe in Rasulullaah ε as a deity. This question of Isabella’s was a result of this misunderstanding.
Michael said, “Time and again you say that our Injeel is not the original one, whereas the disciples wrote it with the

help of the Holy Ghost. The Qur'aan also praises them and calls them believers. Then, all the Christians of the world testify to the truthfulness of the Injeel."

Umar Lahmi replied, "The question is that whether the disciples to whom the Injeel is attributed, did they write it or did some polytheists write it and attribute it to them. There is also no unanimity amongst the Christians that the disciples wrote the Injeel/Gospels. The second thing is whether the disciples compiled it or a messenger compiled it. Islaam does not accept the modern day Gospels. It praises the Injeel that was revealed directly to Hadhrat 'Isa υ by Allaah Talla through revelation. The Qur'aan states, 'And We gave him the Injeel'. Hadhrat 'Isa υ says himself 'I was given the book'. In contrast to this, you attest that the Injeel/Gospels were written by the disciples, but the Qur'aan states that the Injeel was revealed directly from Allaah Talla to Hadhrat 'Isa υ."

The discussion carried on until Isabella's father (the head priest) came and rebuked them in the following words, "What battleground have you set up here? You are debating with disbelievers in the holy church and destroying the beliefs and faith of the Christians. Daily I get Christians coming to tell me of your inability and they say that many Christians have become doubtful and freedom has been created in your daughter Isabella." Looking at Isabella, he said, "Girl, who told you to come here? What do you have to do with these discussions? You study the Qur'aan on the quiet. I know all that you do. Never mind, this is a foolish girl. But what has happened to you people that you sit in

the church and talk with these disbelievers and displease the soul of the Lord Christ. If you ever do this again, I will dismiss you."

With this scolding of the head priest, all the priests were helpless and the face of Isabella lost colour. Who had the courage to explain to the head priest? Finally, one Christian took up the courage and addressed the head priest, "My holy father, whatever you said is totally true. Definitely there is nothing but loss in debating with these disbelievers. However, O father, do you want to disgrace us throughout Spain? Is it your view that Christianity should be annihilated throughout Spain? By the oath of the Lord Christ, if these disbelievers are not stopped at this point, then we cannot show our faces throughout Spain. I also wish to say that we could not answer the objections of the Muslims. If you accept my humble request, then I wish to say that without your help, the questions of the Muslims cannot be answered because today, there is no greater servant of Christianity than you throughout Spain who could do this service, answer the Muslims and close their mouths. If you do not help Christianity now, O Holy Father, then the consequences will be disastrous for us and for Christianity. All our preachers will be disgraced all over. May I hope that through the help of the Lord Christ, you will be ready to answer the questions of the Muslims?" The head priest replied, "You have called the Muslims and have made the matter so important yourselves. I am ashamed that you cannot answer the foolish questions of the Muslims and by studying divinity you have become even greater fools. Will the Muslims come onto the straight

path if they get the correct answers?" Michael said, "Yes, they have promised that they will leave Islaam and adopt Christianity. They have also given a written undertaking."
The head priest said to Umar Lahmi, "What are your questions?"

Umar Lahmi replied, "Sir, if you listen with calm, then I shall speak. The manner in which you dealt with poor ones like us and the Christian character you showed demands that I do not speak at all. But because I am in search of the truth and desire to attain the light of guidance through you, therefore I want to discuss on condition that you listen with calm and peace." "Do not be grieved over my sour address. If you have been given difficulty through what we have said, then I seek forgiveness on behalf of everybody. Indeed you seem desirous of the truth and definitely the Lord Christ will guide and aid you. Very well, you come to my home any time tomorrow. Your doubts and reservations will be removed with peace." He turned to the priests and said, "You also must come so that you will learn the answers to the questions of the Muslims and you will be able to answer in future." He then said to Umar Lahmi, "Come tomorrow, my house is open for you."

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Chapter Six

The Third Meeting

The readers should be told at this point what the activities of Isabella were besides the debates. She was busy with nothing but the issues of contention. Studying of various books, her leisure time and meeting friends was all for this reason (the debates and discussions). The discussion between Umar Lahmi and the priests reached the point where the priests had no answers to the questions of the Muslims. She became totally shaken regarding Christianity and no proof could keep her firm upon her belief. In this time she quietly met Umar Lahmi on a number of occasions and learnt about Islaam. The discussion between Umar Lahmi and the head priest finished at her house and a month passed over it. However, she remained involved in research. On a number of occasions, through Umar Lahmi, she met the judge of Cordova, Ziyaad bin Umar. She gained solace from him. Ziyaad bin Umar was a great scholar of Islaam and was an ascetic and worshipper. He used to stay awake in worship at night and was very pious.

The Muslims of Spain took him to be a man of Allaah Talla. A special effect was left on the heart of Isabella after meeting him a few times and she began to love Islaam. She understood very briefly that Islaam is the true religion and Christianity is nothing but a collection of deviation.

The head priest told Umar Lahmi in the Cathedral that he should come to his house the next day. He also invited all the priests. For this reason, Umar Lahmi came with a few friends the next day to the head priests' house. The priest welcomed them with great respect and seated them in a special room. He served them with fruit as well. During this time, more than 40 Christian scholars also arrived.

After a little while, the head priest said to Umar Lahmi, "I know what questions you want to pose, however, I do not want to go into lengthy debates. I want to say something so that instead of days and hours, a solution can be reached in a few seconds. **What I mean is that Christianity and Islaam should be weighed in the light of their teachings. Is it not so?"**

Umar Lahmi replied, "I have no excuse whatsoever. I am ready to take whichever path you want. Definitely, the teachings of Islaam and Christianity only can decide on what the truth is and what falsehood is."

The head priest replied, "Congratulations, definitely the help of the Holy Ghost is with you. You will come out of misguidance very quickly towards guidance. Good, you have accepted my yardstick. Now I shall proceed. Look, in

religion there are details and then is the principles or the summary. **I present the summary of Christianity to you, which is nothing more than a single word. In contrast, you also present one word which is the summary of Islaam. Do you accept?"**

"Tell me, I accept everything you say." Looking towards the priests, he said "Look, a debate is that in which the decision can be made in one word. **Listen, the summary of Christianity is love.** Look, love is a single word that summarizes Christianity. Now you tell me the summary of Islaam in a single word."

"I am also proud to say that Islaam has also summarized its teachings in a single word. It encompasses all the principles and the subsidiary rulings. **The summary of Islaamic teachings and rulings is 'Tauheed'."** "If the summary of Islaamic teachings is Tauheed, then love is removed. Also, we also say that Tauheed is the summary of our religion."

"If Tauheed is the summary of your religion, then why did you not present it? Why did not say Tauheed instead of love? Regarding your statement that by accepting Tauheed as the summary of religion, love is left out, it is incorrect. The reality is that love is created from Tauheed. If Tauheed is not accepted with its conditions, then love is meaningless. The meaning of accepting love as the summary of religion is that Tauheed should be totally rejected or it should not be classified as the summary of religion." "The fact is that Tauheed is created from love. So we learn that love is something useless and meaningless. It does not include the love of Allaah Talla. **This is because the love of Allaah Talla is dependent upon His**

recognition and the real recognition is Tauheed. Therefore, the love for Allaah Talla cannot be proven through just love."

"You have begun a lengthy discussion. What I mean is that there is no status given to love in Islaam." "You are wrong. If there is no status of love in Islaam, then understand that there is no love in the world. It is correct to say that there is no name and no sign of love in Christianity. There are only verbal claims to it, but there is no yardstick for it and no proof for it." "Look, the famous statement of our heavenly book is 'God is Love'. Is this not proof of love?"

Umar Lahmi replied, "This is all a waste of speech. Until and unless there is no yardstick, the viewpoint of love cannot be accepted." "Explain the yardstick. Is God not called 'father' in our books? Does a father not love his children?" "The fact is that no love is created by claiming it, until all its conditions are not found. If a person has love for someone then until he does not go through difficulty, sacrifice his wealth and life and prove his love, until then he cannot be called a truthful lover. For this reason, Islaam has made the yardstick of love obedience and following. This is another name for sacrifice of life and wealth. Allaah Talla I states in the Qur'aan, "If you love Allaah Talla, then follow me, Allaah Talla will love you." After passing this test, Allaah Talla will love you. Therefore one yardstick of love is mentioned in this verse. It has differentiated false and true love. There is no yardstick of love according to you. Any person can stand up and say that I love God."

The head priest replied, “You have once again started the long discussion. I want that everything should be short and comprehensive and a decision should be reached in two seconds. Very well, tell me if God is referred to as father in your book? It is the highest stage of love. Upon this we shall decide.”

“If Islaam had to use the word ‘father’, then it will prove to be the greatest shortcoming of its teachings. Islaam has not used this deviated word at all for Allaah Talla. However, in contrast to it, it uses a word whose purport has a greater standing than the purport of father.” “You insult a great deal. You call the word ‘father’ deviated. Well, tell me quickly which better word has Islaam used in contrast to father?” [At this point, the veins on the neck of the head priest began to swell in anger and spittle began coming from his mouth].

“There is no need to get uneasy. I said that the word father is deviated because it has laid the foundation of polytheism and people stipulated a son for God. You also say that Hadhrat ‘Isa υ is God, do you not? Regarding the better word that Islaam has used, it is ‘Rabb’. Rabb refers to a being that nurtures and brings up something from its beginning to end. Its nurturing never comes to a stop. Islaam has used the word Rabb and thereby shows that the nurturing relationship of Allaah Talla has used the word Rabb and thereby shows that the nurturing relationship of Allaah Talla I is never removed from Allaah Talla I. However, the shortcoming in the word ‘father’ is that a father nurtures his children for a certain amount of time and

then they become independent of the father. A father nurtures his children in those affairs in which he has a choice, but his nurturing is of no avail in those things beyond his control. For example, if the child falls sick, the father cannot remove the sickness. This is not the case with Allaah Talla I. He has power over everything and nothing can make Him incapable. It is for this reason that He nurtures perpetually in every way. Therefore it is proven that the word Rabb is in accordance to the grandeur of Allaah Talla I, rather than the word 'father'. Secondly, the word Rabb shows the unity of Allaah Talla I and the word father is the source of polytheism."

The head priest replied, "There is no proof in the world of whatever you said regarding the word Rabb, but you cannot deny witnessing the love of the father. Who can accept such a meaningless word for which there is no proof in the world? Can you deny the effect of the love of the father?"

Umar Lahmi replied, "It is a source of regret that the belief of atonement has covered your minds, otherwise you would not have said such things. We see every day that man is nurtured in the belly of one's mother, one is also nurtured during childhood, youth and during old age. From beginning to end one is nurtured, is this not the work of the Rabb? Do you not see this every day?"

The head priest replied, "It is mentioned in the Holy Injeel that the father sacrificed His only son for man out of love for them. What greater proof of love can there be that a father sacrifices his most beloved for the sake of love?"

Umar Lahmi said, “This same explanation of the Injeel refutes your claim, i.e. according to you, a father is he who sacrifices his pure sinless son for the sake of the impure and sinful men. It is as though the love of the father became apparent in such a way that He sacrificed his sinless child. However, a Rabb is not like that. A Rabb is He who does not oppress anyone, in fact, He punishes the oppressor. Like the Qur’aan states, And no one will bear the burden of another. But your father slaughtered his own son. If this was some type of love that a sinless pure child is crucified and killed, then we bid farewell to such type of love and such a father.”

The head priest said addressing the other priests, “I understood that this person really wants to return to the Christian deity, but now I have learnt that he is a staunch disbeliever. Whatever I said up to now were matters of special differences. What will these people understand from them (Umar Lahmi)? Your hearts have turned black. The Lord Christ does not want to accept you. Now you go from here. I want nothing to do with you. You only came here to trouble me.”

He then said, “You should not have anything to do with them. You saw how stubborn they are. They do not want to accept a single thing.”

Umar Lahmi said, “But sir...”

“You keep quiet. We learnt what your intentions are and for what purpose you have come to talk to us.” **Saying this,**

the head priest proved his Christian character and went away to his upper room.

Umar Lahmi and the other Muslim scholars sounded the slogan ‘Help from Allaah Talla and a near victory’ and came out as well.

Umar Lahmi and the other Muslim scholars came out from the house of the head priest sounding the slogan of victory and then left for their homes. Isabella was the daughter of the head priest. She quietly heard the discussion from both parties. Besides her, her friends and other Christian women also enjoyed the discussion. When the women gathered in the evening, they expressed their views regarding the events of the morning. After hearing this last discussion, whatever faith she had left was also finished and she understood properly that Christianity is just a sham that has no basis or principles. From the first gatherings, she thought that Petrus and Michael were incompetent and my father knows the reality of the Christian faith. Therefore if they were not able to answer, then my father will silence them. But, when she heard this final discussion she lost all hope and she had to decide that the basis of the Christian religion is nothing but similar to a spider’s web. More than a month passed after this incident. There was a total revolution in the beliefs of Isabella. She had now met Umar Lahmi and through him, Ziyaad and other scholars of Cordova. She began to study the Qur’aan in abundance and the truthfulness of Islaam set upon her heart. She now began to study the Qur’aan and the Injeel with the view to finding out which one has the truth and which one is a collection of doubts. She pondered over Tauheed,

Nubuwwah, Qur'aan, salvation, atonement, intercession, the reality of sin, the actions of man and its consequences – according to her level of understanding. She no longer remained within the fold of Christianity but bowed her head before Islaam. However, she did think from time to time that how could I leave the religion I had followed since childhood. After accepting Islaam there will be trials and tribulations. She will have to leave her father, mother, relatives, brothers and sisters. How would her life be? She then said to herself that she has to tolerate tribulations for the sake of truth. If she recognizes the truth and does not announce it, then she will be guilty in the sight of Allaah Talla I.

One day, Umar Lahmi came to know of the worry of Isabella. **He quietly sent word to her that she should recite the following verse of the Qur'aan 10 times morning and evening, 'O my Rabb, enter me with truth and take me out with the truth and make me from your side firm and guide me'.** He also told her to carry on studying the Qur'aan. Allaah Talla willing, this worry will go away quickly.

Isabella did this and she recited the verse daily morning and evening. Through recitation of this verse she felt some hidden power giving solace to her heart and mind. The fear in her heart went away. Through this immediate effect, her faith gained even more strength. She became even more devoted to the Qur'aan and to Islaam.

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Chapter Seven

Meeting of the Men of Allaah Talla

The story we are relating was when the Muslims began to build Masjids and Madrasahs throughout Spain. The great scholars of Islaam and the jurists came to Spain. The effort of teaching also took root in Cordova. Ziyaad bin Umar was a great scholar of Hadith, logic and exegesis. He was unique in his worship as well. Due to his religiousness, purity and sincere worship, all the Muslims of Cordova loved him. During the day he was involved in worship and at night there was a crowd of scholars and students in his home. His house was adjoined to the University of Cordova. It is for this reason that after ‘Ishaa’ Salaah all his scholarly friends came to his home.

One day, while this gathering of friends was in progress, and great scholars and poets were present, **Ziyaad bin Umar came.** Looking at him, the people stood straight and after greeting them, he asked about their health and

wellbeing. **He addressed Umar Lahmi saying,** “Brother, may Allaah Talla bless your efforts. You went into the house of disbelief and conveyed the message of truth and defeated the disbelievers. Anyway, you completed proof against them.”

“Sir, this was the result of your Du’aa and attention, otherwise I am just a normal weak Muslim. Through your Du’aa, Isabella became a Muslim from the heart. This is because she wanted to meet you, and therefore she has come to attain good fortune from you.”
“Is that so, is Isabella present here?”

“Yes, she has been put up in the next house. If you permit, she could be brought here.”

“Yes, yes, indeed. If she has come to meet, then call her.”

Asad – one person that was there – said, “By Allaah Talla, O my mentor, this is a great work and there is great commotion amongst the Christians of Cordova. But is Isabella the only one inclined to Islaam, or are there others with her?”

Umar Lahmi said, “Isabella will tell you of this herself.”

Another person said, “I heard that the Christians want to kill Isabella.”

Umar Lahmi replied, “Isabella has done everything secretly until now. Besides doubt, no one has conviction if

she has accepted Islaam or she intends to. So I do not understand the meaning of killing.”

Ziyaad bin Umar said, “Good, now call Isabella. It will be good to hear this interesting news from her.”

After a little while Isabella came to the gathering, glanced at Ziyaad bin Umar and greeted by indication. She sat in a corner. All those present congratulated her on taking up the courage and being bold.
Ziyaad bin Umar said, “Daughter Isabella, I congratulate you on your desire of the truth that Allaah Talla has taken you out from the darkness of disbelief and blessed you with the treasure of Islaam. He has taken you out from the quagmire of trinity and has made your feet firm on the clear path of Tauheed. Daughter, this is a path full of dangers. It is the work of brave men to stay firm on it. However, those who made Islaam their objective, the greatest of difficulties has no standing before them and Allaah Talla I guides them.”

Isabella said, “Holy father...”

“Daughter, you now have to leave using such words. There is no papacy in Islaam. Islaam has not given the scholars the status that the Christians gave to their priests. Here there is total equality and the only duty of the scholars is that they guide the Muslims in light of the Qur’aan and Sunnah. It is the duty of the Muslims to follow the scholars, not that they make them deities or make them total masters.”

Isabella said out of shame, "Now you tell me that which title I should use for you and for the other Islaamic leaders."

"Daughter, for us and the other Muslims you say 'brother'. If you wish to add anything, then you can say 'o my mentor'."

"Very well, I shall obey every order of yours in future, O my mentor. It is the grace and beneficence of Allaah Talla I that He showed this lowly servant the path of truth and certainty and has freed her from trinity and worshipping the cross. The means of this guidance is my spiritual teacher and nurturer Umar Lahmi. He went to the homes of the priests of Cordova and preached to them and through him my ears heard the truth and reality. My heart prays for him that may Allaah Talla I bless Umar Lahmi with the bounties of religion and the world and through your Du'aa, may my life and death be upon Islaam." [The entire gathering said Aameen]

Ziyaad bin Umar then said, "Daughter, Allaah Talla I wants to take some great service from you. Definitely, through you, the Muslims will benefit abundantly. Tell me, are there any other women that have similar beliefs as yours'?"

"Yes, my mentor, there are four other friends that have turned away from Christianity. They are inclined towards Islaam. Allaah Talla willing, I shall bring them here tomorrow or the next day so that they could come here and

benefit and the doubts they have about Islaam could be removed.”

Umar Lahmi said, “My sister, which friends are these? By Allaah Talla, we did not know, nor did you mention them.”

Isabella replied, “One is the daughter of my divinity teacher Michael and another three friends. All of them participated in the discussions.”

“Have they become Muslims at heart and have they accepted the flaws in Christianity?”
Isabella said, “The flaws of Christianity have become clear to them and they also testify to the truth of Islaam. However, they do not have the boldness to leave their ancestral religion and announce the truth of Islaam.”

Ziyaad bin Umar said, “Very well, may Allaah Talla create the boldness in them – which you desire – we shall also make Du’aa to Allaah Talla for this.”

Umar Lahmi said, “Bring the daughter of Michael here also one day so that her doubts can also be removed.”

Isabella said, “I will definitely bring her here tomorrow or the next day, if the four girls do not accompany me, then I shall definitely bring her (Michael’s daughter) with.”

Ziyaad bin Umar said, “Daughter, I tell you again that remove all your doubts and accept Islaam. Do not accept Islaam by being deceived or tricked. Islaam desires sincerity and the Qur’aan states that the life and death, worship and striving, sitting and standing, sleeping and

awakening, in essence, everything is for Allaah Talla and it is the aim of our life to attain His happiness and pleasure."

Isabella said, "O my mentor, I make Allaah Talla a witness and say that no greed or desire has brought me to Islaam. My nature is not the acquisition of wealth and fame. You are well aware of the honour that my father has in Cordova, nay, the entire Spain."

Ziyaad bin Umar said, "May Allaah Talla reward you, may He bless you with steadfastness and send His mercy upon you."
Umar Lahmi said, "Islaam is such a religion that after accepting it, the mercy of Allaah Talla descends upon the Muslim and all the person's sins are forgiven."

Isabella said smiling, "Every week, all my sins are forgiven by the priest of Cordova that is in charge of acquisition. Therefore, I am sinless from before." [She said the last part with her head lowered].

Ziyaad bin Umar said, "What is this department of acquisition? What is the meaning of a priest forgiving sins? According to you, can a human being also forgive sins?"

Isabella said with shame, "O my mentor, this story is very interesting and probably it is new to you people because you are not aware of the inside conditions of the Christian religion."

Ziyaad bin Umar said, “Will you inform us of these incidents and workings? We should definitely hear such interesting workings. Who can explain it better than you?”

Isabella said, “O my mentor, there is a law amongst the Christians that every Christian should go every week to the church and confess his sins at the altar in the presence of the head priest. The priest forgives the person because in Christianity the head priest has the choice to forgive sins because he is understood to be the representative of St. Peter.”

Ziyaad bin Umar said, “I seek forgiveness from Allaah Talla, there is no ability to do good or ability to stay away from evil except with Allaah Talla, what, aside from Allaah Talla can man also forgive sins? Yes, it is for this reason that the Qur’aan has stated regarding the Christians that they have taken the priests and monks as deities besides Allaah Talla.” With great astonishment he then said, “Does the priest have the choice to forgive every single sin?”

Isabella replied, “Yes, on condition that the one desirous of forgiveness confesses all his or her sins, whether secret or open. If he or she hides anything, then they will not be forgiven.”

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Chapter Eight

Hidden Discussions

Umar Lahmi said after Isabella during the discussion, “In order to get forgiven, a person has to explain all types of sins. Anyway, how is forgiveness sought?”

Isabella said while looking down in shame, “Everyone has to go to the big church (where you debated with Michael and Petrus) on a specific date and...”

Umar Lahmi said, “Do girls also have to go?” “Yes. Every mature boy and girl is brought and the priest asks each person regarding the sins they committed that week. After explaining and testifying, the priest passes his hand over their heads and says, “Go, all your sins have been forgiven through the blessings of the Lord Christ.”

Umar Lahmi said, “Are the people asked in privacy or in front of everyone?”

Isabella said, “If every person were to be asked to confess in seclusion, then this custom would not be so shameful. But every person confesses his sins in front of everyone and they are pardoned thereafter.”

Umar Lahmi said, “I seek forgiveness from Allaah Talla, in front of unmarried boys and girls?”

Bowing her head in shame **she said,** “Yes, they are made to confess their sins in front of unmarried boys and girls and they all hear.”

Umar Lahmi said, “O my Rabb, forgive us. By confessing ones sins, many shameful things are made apparent. Assume that someone stole, he will have to confess this in front of everyone.”

Isabella said, “What is one thing, the worst of actions have to be announced. If someone does not confess and hides it, his sin will not be forgiven and will be sent to hell.”

Umar Lahmi said, “So this method has a very bad effect on the character of unmarried boys and girls.”

Isabella said, “Why not. Sins have no importance according to the Roman Catholics because the method of forgiveness is very easy. This makes people even more daring to commit sins.”

One person said, “The priest forgives the sins of the general people, but if he commits a sin himself, then who forgives his sins?”

Ziyaad bin Umar said smiling, “Possibly the priest does not commit any sin.”

After this, Ziyaad bin Umar left the gathering and went to the upper floor and became involved in remembering Allaah Talla and other recitations.

Isabella said with her gaze down out of shame and modesty, “What do you know that our leaders, especially the monks, what lives they live and how much sin they are involved in.”

Umar Lahmi said, “Is that the case? Are the lives of the religious leaders worse than the general peoples’? Isabella, what are you saying? Becoming a Muslim does not mean that you falsely accuse someone. The punishment for false accusation is very severe in the Qur’aan.”

Isabella said, “Yes, indeed you should think so because you are not aware of the dark lives of the religious leaders. You cannot even conceive the dark deeds they do. Therefore, if you deny or do not believe my explanation, you are not at fault.”

Umar Lahmi said, “Is the case as you said it? If so, then explain it in detail.”

All those present requested Isabella to throw light on these hidden conditions of Christianity so that they could get the opportunity to understand the great blessings of Islaam.

Isabella said, "You know that abandoning the world and monasticism is given great importance in the Christian religion. It is for this reason that most priests are monks or abandon the world. In the pursuit of salvation, they undergo great difficulties and give their bodies different types of pain. Similarly, Christian women become nuns (those who follow the footsteps of Hadhrat Maryam radhiyAllaah Tallau anha and remain unmarried throughout life), but together with this, the monks and nuns cannot protect their chastity. The monks and leaders also become evil and in most cases, the nuns bid farewell to the chastity. Through the custom of confessing ones sins, the monks get a good opportunity to fulfil their carnal desires. This sickness has also affected most nuns, some monks, with their mothers and sisters[1]..." [Isabella is perspiring out of shame at this].
The entire gathering said, "There is no ability to do good or ability to stay away from evil except with Allaah Talla, I seek forgiveness from Allaah Talla, we repent, we repent."

Umar Lahmi said, "These things happen because a monk life has been classified the most virtuous in Christianity which is in fact against human nature and the law of Allaah Talla. **One proof of the invalidity of Christianity is that it has such teachings that are against human nature and man can never practice upon them.** It is for this reason that the caller to Islaam, Rasulullaah ρ said, **"There is no**

[1] Laski, Civilisation of Europe vol.2

monasticism in Islaam." He then said, **"Marriage is from my practice."** In another place, **"He who turns away from my practice is not from me."** The Qur'aan states, **'They invented monasticism which We did not ordain for them but they did it in search of Allaah Talla's pleasure. However, they did not observe it as it ought to have been observed.'"**

Isabella said, "Has Islaam prohibited monasticism and abandoning the world?"

Umar Lahmi said, "Indeed, you just heard the decision of the Qur'aan and the Hadith."

At this point, Isabella was softened and the greatness of Islaam got further entrenched in her heart.
One person said, "So the monks do not differentiate between permitted and forbidden."

Isabella said, "It is very shameful, but you can gauge that if the respect of their mother's and sisters are not protected, then what would they not do?"

Mr. Leaky has written at length in 'A History of European Morals' exposing the dark deeds of the monks and the priests. He has written that there is no moral crime which they did not commit, even their mothers and sisters..."

One person said, "Is this the situation with the nuns as well?"

Isabella replied, “May Allaah Talla protect us. Their condition is even worse off than the monks. With great shame the European historians have accepted the incident that stated that in a well of the school for nuns, when it was cleaned out; a few thousand heads of babies were found. They were thrown therein to hide their adultery.”

Umar Lahmi said, “**In reality, the root of all the evil is the belief of atonement.** The Christians have made it a licence to sin.”

Isabella said, “Indeed, you have understood properly. The reality is that the belief of atonement has taken the fear of sin out of the hearts and every person understands this that after sinning, he will confess the sin in front of the priest and all types of his sins will be forgiven.”
Umar Lahmi said, “Allaah Talla is the greatest, we learn the virtue and truth of Islaam that where Islaam has rejected atonement and placed salvation and success upon good deeds, the Qur’aan has also mentioned the principle, ‘whoever does an atom’s weight of good, he will definitely see it, and he who does an atom’s weight of evil, he will definitely see it.’

One person said to Isabella, “Most probably you know that the belief of atonement pushes Christians towards sin, but there is another reason. And that is the Christians believe all the Messengers to be sinners and they say that **the Messengers committed every type of sin in their lives.”**

Isabella said, “This seems incorrect because if we accept the Messengers [May peace and blessings be upon them] to be sinful, then which group is left that will create hatred for sin? What right will the Messengers have to guide people to stop sinning?”

Umar Lahmi said, “Indeed, your thought is correct, but what is the solution that the Christians take the Messengers to be idolaters (May Allaah Talla save us), adulterers and liars?”

Isabella said, “O brother, is this the beliefs of the Christians regarding the Messengers? **Do they take them to be idolaters and liars?** If they do, then in which book is it written?”
Umar Lahmi said, “My sister, what do you know about the thoughts of the Christians and in order to justify their sins what accusations they level against the Messengers? You have not yet studied your books properly. That is why you are astonished when hearing what we say. If Islaam did not come into existence and the guide of good, Rasulullaah ρ did not come and tear the veil of wrong done by the Jews and Christians, then today, even after looking for the innocence of the Messengers, you would not have found it.”

Isabella said, “Have the Christians become so shameful that they accept the Messengers as sinners and believe in them as such? According to me, you must have misunderstood. I have never heard until today that the

messengers worshipped idols, or they lied. Can you prove your claim from the religious and revealed books of the Christians?"

Umar Lahmi said, "Indeed, your revealed books..."

Isabella said, "In my revealed books? My revealed and religious book is the Glorious Qur'aan."

Umar Lahmi said, "What I mean is that those books you believed to be revealed ones while you were a Christian, all this is written in them."

Isabella said, "I am astonished, please prove it."

Umar Lahmi said, "I say again that the Messengers are called adulterers, liars and idolaters in the Christian books (May Allaah Talla save us). **Look, it is written regarding Hadhrat Loot υ that he was adulterous with his daughters."** He lifted the Tauraat and said, "Look, in the **chapter of Creation 19:36** it is stated that **Hadhrat Dawood υ slept with a strange woman.** Look, **in Samuel 2, chapter 11 verse 4** it is written regarding **Shamshu that he was polluted with another woman and he had an affair with another** (May Allaah Talla save us). Look in the book of **Judges, chapter 16..."**

All those present said, "We seek forgiveness from Allaah Talla, may Allaah Talla curse the Jews and Christians. We seek forgiveness from Allaah Talla, we seek forgiveness from Allaah Talla." Isabella perspires out of shame and cannot speak.

Umar Lahmi said, "Listen further, the Messengers are also called liars in the revealed Christian books, i.e. despite being Messengers, they lied. **First Nabi Shamshu lied. He told a woman something wrong thrice. See book of Judges chapter 16. Second, an honourable messenger (not named in the Bible) spoke a lie. See first Kings chapter 13. Another Messenger spoke a lie, see first Kings chapter 3. Jesus Christ also lied, see first Kings, chapter 22, verse 15. Jeremiah also lied a lot. See Jeremiah chapter 38."** Addressing Isabella, he said, "You know the St. Paul very well, what do the Christians believe regarding him?"

Isabella said, "All Christians believe him to be a Messenger and all great priests are understood to be representatives of him. For this reason they have the choice to forgive sins."

Umar Lahmi said, "Totally correct. Well then, is it not written in the four gospels regarding this very same St. Paul that when the enemies surrounded Jesus, **they also wanted to capture St. Paul. He sent curses thrice upon Jesus and told a clear lie that I do not know this Jesus?"**
Isabella said, "Indeed it is written so. I studied the gospels under my teacher Michael, lesson by lesson."

"Now take the proof of the third aspect that the **Messengers are idol worshippers according to the Christians. In Exodus Chapter 32 verse 4 it is written that Hadhrat Haroon υ asked his people to make idols**

and worship them. In first Kings chapter 11 it is written that Hadhrat Sulayman υ worshipped idols towards the end of his life in accordance to the request of his wife. In this way he became a renegade and polytheist (May Allaah Talla save us).”

Isabella said, “My lord, forgive us, My lord, forgive us.” “Look, I have the bible in my hands. I have marked the relevant verses. You can also look at them and see that I have not made an error.” Isabella turned the pages over and read all the references that Umar Lahmi showed. He then said, “My objective of showing these references is that the reason why the Christians have such bravery and are so bold to do all types of sin is that Allaah Talla save us, the Messengers also used to do such sins. They understand that when the **Messengers** and pious people commit major sins, **to the extent of committing adultery,** and this did not let them fall from the status of Nubuwwah, then we sinners cannot be punished by Allaah Talla for doing them.”

Isabella said, “Has the Qur’aan stated that the Messengers are sinless?”

“The greatest merit of the Qur’aan is that it has vehemently rejected the incorrect thoughts and accusations of the Jews and Christians and it has stated that forget sins, **they do not even intend to commit sins.** Look at Surah Hud verse 12 section 7 which states that ‘that group that forbids certain deeds, they do not even intend to do it’. The Qur’aan has also included all the Messengers amongst the pious.”

"Does the Qur'aan not state that Aadam υ ate of the forbidden tree? Did he not commit a sin by going against the command of Allaah Talla?"

"The definition of a sin is that a person goes against a command intentionally. If a person does it forgetfully, it is not called a sin. For example, it is forbidden to eat and drink while fasting, but if someone eats or drinks forgetfully, then his fast in not nullified and he is not a sinner. **Similarly, Aadam υ also forgetfully ate of the tree,** like the Qur'aan states in Surah TaaHaa section 15. It states, 'We took a promise from Aadam, but he forgot and we did not find intention in him."

Isabella said, "Glory be to Allaah Talla, today I have learnt that Aadam υ did not commit any sin, otherwise, the priests generally ask the Muslims this question that Aadam υ has been called a sinner in the Qur'aan." She looked at her watch and said, "Oh! Much time has passed. I have to go home. My father – the head priest – and my mother are eagerly awaiting me. I have also not eaten."

Umar Lahmi said, "If you wish, we will present the food. The common table cloth of Ziyaad bin Umar has been spread for us all. You also partake of it. Will this request of mines be accepted?"

Isabella said, "I am very grateful. I will partake of meals at home because it is the habit of my mother that as long as I am not done with my leisure time and walk and come home, she will not eat. She always eats along with me."

Umar Lahmi said, “Until when will she be eating together with you? One day this secret will be revealed.”

Isabella said, “I leave it to when that happens. Permit me to leave this time.”

Umar Lahmi said, “Very well, when will you bring your friends along?”

“If the opportunity permits, then tomorrow, otherwise the next day they will definitely come. Now pray that Allaah Talla I guides them to the straight path like how He guided me.” All those present said, “Aameen.”

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Chapter Nine

At Home

Isabella got up from the blessed gathering of Ziyaad bin Umar and took the road that led from Qasr ush Shuhadaa’ to Suq ul ‘Asafeer. Isabella’s house is not very far from there. She was so happy with the discussion that she had no idea about the world and what was happening. She was walking with ease and quietly with her eyes downcast. After half an hour she reached home. She mother was waiting. First she asked the reason why she came late and told the servant to lay the table. Isabella named one of her friends and said that she got late in meeting her. She sat

sown to eat. After the meal, her father – the head priest – came. The night passed peacefully.

True dawn arrived. The Muazzins called out the Azaan from the Masaajid of Cordova. What a beloved call and in what a peaceful time the name of Allaah Talla is being raised. In what a way is the negligent and unaware awakened in order to remember Allaah Talla I. Glory be to Allaah Talla, what a beautiful call it is. Allaah Talla is the greatest, Allaah Talla is the greatest.

The churches also began sounding the bells. What a useless and meaningless sound. Where is 'Allaah Talla is the greatest' and 'dong, dong'. **It is true that the condition of every religion is learnt from its customs.** The people came out from the Masjid. The workers, traders and farmers went to the market and farms. The chirping of the birds became less.
Hearing the Azaan, Isabella awoke and went to the library of her home. She sat at a table and began studying. In this time the honourable Petrus and Michael arrived. Isabella saw them and stood up with respect. She went with them to the large room that was kept for meeting people. After a little while, Isabella's father came and sat in the room. Isabella's mother was also called. Isabella was frightened at this uncalled for and strange gathering and she doubted that possibly these people were called on account of me. It is possible that my relationship with Islaam has come to their attention. Isabella's face changed colour and the condition of her heart became terrified. She left the room with the excuse of needing to drink water.

The head priest addressed Isabella’s mother, Petrus and Michael, “You know in what condition Isabella is? In what way she is disgracing me? I gave you the trouble in order to think about this.”

Petrus said, “What is the matter?”

The Head Priest replied, “Good, only good. From a number of days I hear regarding Isabella that she has left Christianity and has secretly embraced Islaam.”

Helena (Isabella’s mother) said, “I repent, I repent, what are you saying? May the Lord Christ not let it happen. Tell me what happened and why are you so angry today? Why have you made my daughter a Muslim without reason?”

The Head Priest said, “Whatever I say is the truth. If not today, then in a few days you will come to know.”

Petrus said, “Holy Father, you have said something astonishing. Isabella is a pious girl. She studied divinity. She is not ignorant to accept the bloody religion of Islaam.”

Helena said, “Very well, I shall call her. I do not know what put you in this doubt.”

Saying this, **Helena** went to the room in which Isabella was seated quietly.

She immediately caught Isabella and **said,** “Get up, your father is calling you.” Poor Isabella understood the entire situation and went with her mother to the big room and then seated her in front of the Head Priest.

Isabella's father indicated to **Michael** to speak. Consequently, he **said to Isabella,** "Daughter, we have come to know that you have turned against Christianity. Is this true? If someone has falsely attributed this to you, then you can reject it."

Hearing this question, Isabella remained quiet, lowered her eyes and tears flowed down her soft cheeks.

Helena said, "Look, did I not tell you that someone falsely accused her. How can she reject such news? Her tears are rejecting it and it shows that the accusation of turning against Christianity is totally false."

The Head Priest said, "You remain silent. Let Isabella answer herself. Yes, daughter Isabella, what is this regarding you?"
Isabella remained looking down silently. Finally, upon the insistence of Michael and Petrus, she moved her lips and **said,** "I have not accepted Islaam. I am firm upon my original religion."

Michael said, "If you have not yet accepted Islaam, then do you have the intention to accept it in future?"

Isabella replied, "Why are you asking me about the future? I can pose the same question about you."

Michael said, "Very well, what do you say about Islaam?"

Isabella replied, “I do not say anything bad of it like the other people do because Jesus is praised in the book of the Muslims and the Muslims speak good of the Lord Christ.”

Michael replied, “It is as though you love Islaam and the Muslims.”

Isabella said, “Call it love or anything else you want. I am not ungrateful. If the Muslims respect our Jesus, then I respect their Messenger and their book.”

Petrus said, “We know that definitely you have become a Muslim from the inside, otherwise you would not have praised Islaam and the Muslims. Never mind, tell me what are your thoughts of the religion you have been following until now, i.e. Christianity?”

Isabella said, “I believe in the Injeel and all the divine books. I believe in ‘Isa υ. **However, I do not accept the mistakes that were created later on in the Christian religion.”**

The Head Priest said to Michael, Petrus and Helena, “Now you know what her thoughts are. There is no cure for them except the sword.”

Petrus said, “Give us a chance, we will explain to her. She will definitely be reformed. We will remove her misunderstandings. This girl is not such that she will accept Islaam. After all, she learnt divinity.”

“Very good, try and see, otherwise I will think of some other treatment.”

The discussion reached this point and then the meeting came to an end and the Head Priest went outside with Michael and Petrus towards the big church. This was because there was a crowd of Christians from all over Spain to come and see relics of the pious (bones etc.) and the Head priest. The Head Priest came to participate and in order to bless thousands of Christians.

After the priests left, Isabella went to sit quietly in a room of her house and was thinking about her future. She was convinced that would definitely face trials and she will have to go through severe tests. Despite this, she found her heart at ease and was ready to face every difficulty.

Isabella took a page from the table and wrote to her friend Mirano (Michael’s daughter), she wrote,

‘My beloved sister, yesterday at nine o’clock I participated in a gathering of Islaamic scholars. My spiritual father Umar Lahmi and other scholars were also there. My faith gained great strength by taking part. If only you were there too. However, I promised my spiritual mentor, Ziyaad bin Umar that I will definitely bring you along tomorrow or the next day. Today a strange incident took place. It seems as though I will be tested. Pray that God keeps me firm upon the truth. The incident is that my father got information that I have become a Muslim. He therefore called your father and Petrus home and asked me different questions. Now look, on one side is my father and on the other are Michael

and Petrus. In what difficulty was I! But I still gave them silencing replies. Now Petrus has promised my father that they will make this girl understand. If the opportunity allows, then you three friends should definitely take part. Allaah Talla willing, I will give you all the other details verbally. Your sister, Isabella’

She wrote the letter, called the servant and told her to go to Mirano and bring a book. And also take this letter for it has been here some time now. Give it to her as well. The servant took the letter and headed for Michael’s house. She reached the house and gave the letter to Mirano. She immediately read the letter and said to the servant that tell Isabella I will bring the book myself this evening.

In the evening, Mirano, Isabella and her other friends all gathered in the same garden in Cordova where she first heard the discussion of Umar Lahmi. Isabella told them all that happened and consulted with them. They also decided that tomorrow night they will all attend the gathering of Ziyaad bin Umar and they should tell him all that happened today. After a stroll and leisure time, Isabella and her friends all headed to their homes.

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Chapter Ten

Secrets of the House

On the next morning, a servant of Michael's came to Isabella with a letter. In it was written, "Daughter Isabella, I have to talk to you. Leave all your work at once and come to my house, I am waiting." Isabella understood that it is regarding yesterday's scheme. She told her mother and immediately left. Petrus and another famous monk were at Michael's house. Due to his monastic life, he attained special acceptance and fame throughout Spain. On this

side, Michael's daughter Mirano sent someone to call her friends and they also arrived very quickly.

Finally Michael said to Isabella, "Yesterday you put off the matter by giving ambiguous answers to our questions. Today I want to talk straight to you. Tell me, will you give the correct answers?"

Isabella said, "Firstly, I am not worthy of giving answers in front of you. Secondly, there is nothing about which we should set up interrogation. Nevertheless, you can ask and I shall try to answer according to my understanding."

Michael said, "Have you become a Muslim?"

Isabella said, "I answered this question yesterday. I do not want to say anything further."

Michael said, "Tell me, do you believe in trinity? Do you accept the Lord Christ as the Self Existent God?"
"I accept God as God, but I do not accept man as God."

"We learn from this that you do not accept the Lord Christ as God. Is there anything left in you becoming a proper Muslim."

"What I mean is that the divinity of Hadhrat Isa υ is not proven in the Injeel."

"Do not falsely accuse the Holy Injeel for God's sake. Have you not read in the Injeel that he is the son of God?"

"Other sons of God have passed. Therefore, they should also be taken as deities."

"Never, besides the Lord Christ, no person can be the son of god in the true sense of the word."

Isabella said (taking the Injeel in her hand), "Explain this verse to me, 'The Jews lifted stones in order to stone Jesus. He said to them that I have shown you many good works from the father. On account of which of these works are you stoning me? The Jews said that we are not stoning you because of good work, but because of blasphemy. It is so because despite you being a man, you say that you are God. Jesus replied that does your law not tell you that you are God? When it calls as God those to whom the word of God came, then how can you say it is blasphemy regarding the one who God honoured and sent to the world? This is why I said that I am the son of God.' [Jonah chapter 10 verses 31 -36] Just as the previous Messengers were called God in the Tauraat etc., similarly, I was also called the son of God. Now the question is that in what meaning were the previous Messengers called God? **The Christians also believe that the previous people metaphorically and out of love called him God.** I say that Jesus was called the son of God with this same purport and out of love and not that he was indeed a God as is explained."

Michael said, "You wretched girl! You have become very talkative. You studied under us and enquire about the purport of these verses as though we are ignorant and you are a scholar. But look, the previous Messengers could not be God in the true sense because they were not sinless and

because the Lord Jesus was sinless that is why he is also God.”

Isabella replied to this, “We are not talking about sin and innocence. **The question is that ‘Isa υ called himself the son of God just like how the previous Messengers were called God.** If Hadhrat ‘Isa υ was God in the true sense, then we have to accept the other Messengers as God. Secondly, in these verses, Hadhrat ‘Isa υ is answering the accusations of the Jews. If he was indeed the son of God, then he would have accepted the accusations of the Jews.”

Michael replied, “Oh, what are you saying? You are a great scholar. Now you begin to hit back at us? We know that you are firm (in your stance). If the Lord Jesus was not God, but just a man, then how were our sins atoned for? Can man be atonement for man? And is man free from sin?”

Isabella said, “I do not understand where you got this rule from that none amongst mankind could be sinless whereas the Injeel discusses a person by the name of **Malik Sidq Shaleem** in the following words, ‘He has no father, no mother, no lineage, his age has no beginning, nor is there end to his life, in fact, he is classified as similar to the son of God.’ [Injeel, Enlesiasts chapter 7 verse 3] Then, it is written regarding **Hadhrat Zakariyya υ** and his wife, ‘They were truthful in front of God. They followed all the laws and rulings of God.’ [Luke chapter 1, verse 6]

We learn from this that Malik Sidq Shaleem, Zakariyya and his wife were definitely sinless and innocent, otherwise, the words ‘similar to the son of God’ and ‘sinless’ will be

useless. So, Hadhrat ‘Isa υ has no specialty in being sinless, in fact he is innocent like other innocent men.

Regarding atonement, it is also not proven from the Injeel because no man can tolerate the sins of another man, leave alone God taking the sins of man atop his shoulders and dying on the cross. **In the Injeel Hadhrat ‘Isa υ said that salvation will be attained through actions, not atonement.** Consequently, it is written, ‘Aadam will come with the grandeur of his father, together with His angels. At that time, he will give each one his recompense in accordance to his deeds.’ [Matthew chapter 16 verse 27]

‘A person came and said that O teacher, what good should I do so that I shall find eternal life? Jesus said, “If you want to enter life then practice upon the orders.” He asked, “Upon which laws?” Jesus said, “You should not kill, you should not steal, you should not drink etc.” [Matthew chapter 19 verses 16 – 20, mark verse 17-18, Luke chapter 18 verse 18]
From these verses it is proven that salvation is based only on actions. Hadhrat ‘Isa υ did not say in reply that you should not do any actions for I will serve as atonement for your sins.”

Michael said, “Girl, you have come to teach us? Do you not have faith in us? Look, we are your teachers. Whatever we say you must accept, you cannot understand the delicate aspects of divine law. The matter of atonement will come later. First, the matter of the divinity of the Lord Christ should be solved. Look, Jesus was lifted to the heavens while alive. The Muslims also believe this. Is this not proof

of divinity? The Lord Christ showed many great miracles, he revived the dead, he gave sight to the blind, is his divinity not proven from these things? First believe in his divinity or reject it. Later on you can discuss other issues.”

Isabella said, “You touched on the matter of atonement. That is why I also began discussing it. If the rising of Hadhrat ‘Isa υ to the heavens makes him God then Elia should also be a God because in accordance to the Bible he was lifted while alive to the heavens. [See second Kings chapter 2 verse 12]

Regarding Hadhrat ‘Isa υ reviving the dead and giving sight to the blind, his divinity is also not proven from it because the other Messengers also showed these miracles. It is mentioned clearly in the Bible. If these miracles made someone God, then the other Messengers would also be God.”

Petrus said, “Look how this girl deceives. O foolish girl, the miracles that the other Messengers showed was not of their own choice. They showed it through the choice and order of God. However, the Lord Christ showed miracles from his own choice. From this it is proven that he is God.”

Isabella said, “Firstly, miracles are not a proof of prophethood, so it is farfetched to think it is a proof of divinity. According to Christianity, it is not necessary that whoever shows a miracle he is also a Messenger. If he cannot be a Messenger, then how can he be God? Look, Jesus said, ‘I tell you the truth that whoever believes in me, he will do

the same work that I do, in fact, he will do even greater work.’ [Jonah chapter 14 verse 12]

Regarding what you said that the miracles of Jesus were done out of his own choice and the other Messengers were forced, i.e. they showed the miracles through the command of God, but Jesus did great work out of his own choice, this is also incorrect. This is because it is proven in the Injeel that Jesus was powerless just as the other Messengers were not only in terms of showing miracles, but in everything. Whenever Jesus showed a miracle he first prayed to God and asked. Subsequently, he asked the help of God in showing the miracle of fish and bread. In one place he said to the disciples that taking out the souls are dependent on prayer. Through praying to God, Jesus revived a dead person. [See Matthew chapter 14 verse 18, Mark chapter 9 verse 29, Jonah chapter 11 verse 41]

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Chapter 11

Test of Faith

Carrying on her reply, **Isabella said,** “Jesus had no choice in showing the miracles as was proven from the Injeel. Now I say that Jesus was totally helpless like other human beings in everything. If he was God, then this helplessness would not have come over him. He would have been totally powerful, had complete choice and would have been free

like god in doing every work. He would not have needed to seek help from others."

Opening the Injeel, she said, "Jesus says, 'Just as the father has life, similarly, his son has. In fact, he gave his son the choice to exercise justice because he is from man.' [Jonah chapter 5 verse 26, 27], i.e. the life of Jesus is not his own life, but it was given by God and God gave him the right to exercise justice. Without the divine gift, he could not exercise justice. The proof given for this is that Jesus is from man and it is quite apparent that without the help of God, man cannot do anything. Jesus says in another place, 'I cannot do anything of my own accord. I exercise justice as I hear and my justice is correct.' [Jonah chapter 5 verse 30]

He also said, "I have descended from heaven, not to practice in accordance to my wishes, but in order to practice in accordance to the pleasure of the One Who sent me.' [Jonah chapter 6 verse 38]

Thus it is proven that Jesus was helpless like other human beings and **the one who is helpless and in need of others cannot be God. Therefore Jesus is not God.**"
Petrus said to Michael, "You see how firm this girl has become and the Muslims have taught her and have given her such a loose tongue? Do you have faith that she will come onto the straight path? I feel that it is useless talking to her because she is no more a believer, but has become insolent"

Michael said, "I have also attained conviction that the devil has taken control of her." He said to Isabella, "The

answers to all that you have presented are completely clear, you have also studied them in the lessons of divinity. There are other answers as well which you will never be able to understand. However, instead of replying you, we shall hear all your thoughts so that it would become easy for us to make a decision regarding you. You have clearly made your views on the divinity of Christ and atonement clear. Now explain further."

Isabella said, "I have not rejected the Injeel, or Hadhrat 'Isa υ, what I am saying is that **it is not proven from the original Injeel that Jesus is God, nor is atonement proven. All this is the invention of the Christians."**

Michael said, "As though all the Christians of the world are lying and all the Christians agreed on that which is contrary to the Injeel. You unfortunate and hellish girl! If you do not understand anything, then accept the decision of the pious. Does your father – **the head priest, who has the complete choice of forgiving sins** – also understand this to be wrong? Are all those on the path, the monks and the scholars and servants of the religion of God all astray?"

Isabella replied, "Just as the divinity of Jesus and atonement is not proven from the Injeel, similarly, the Christianity of the so called 'Christians' today is also not proven from the Injeel. Therefore, their thoughts are not proof for me."

Michael said, "Wonderful! Wonderful! As though we are false and fake Christians and you are a real and true Christian! You unfortunate thing, what has happened to

your sense? You have even moved away from your pious elders. What proof do you have that the present Christians are not true Christians?”

Isabella said, “It is not something to become angry about. The matter is totally clear. **If you prove the Christianity of the present Christians from the Injeel,** then I am ready to accept with my heart and soul whatever the decision is. I shall never want to prove anything else from the Injeel in front of its decision. **Just prove the Christianity of the present day Christians.”**

Michael said, “If someone rejects the presence of the sun, then how could he be explained to? There are Christians all over the world and you say that in the light of the Injeel they are not. What is the proof for this? Is it not proof of our Christianity that we all believe in the Injeel? **We accept the divinity of Christ and our faith is in atonement and the blood of Christ?”**

Isabella said, “Do the Muslims not believe in the Injeel? Will you call them Christians? Believing in the divinity of Christ and atonement is no proof of them being Christian, in fact, it is proven that such people can never be Christian because there are no such beliefs in the Injeel.”

Petrus said, “O you worthless girl! What happened to you? Why are you doubting our Christianity? You unfortunate. If we are not Christians, then it is your responsibility to prove where in the world the real Christians are. Tell us, where in the world do the real Christians live?”

Isabella said, “You can be as angry as you want, but the truth cannot be concealed. If you want proof from me, then listen that the present Christians are not Christians. Regarding who the true Christian is, I am ready to prove it to you from the Injeel.”

Michael said, “O unfortunate girl, why are you making up more talk? Why do you not present the proof?”

Isabella said, “Very well, listen. **The signs and indications of true Christians are mentioned in the Injeel as follows,** ‘And among the believers there will be these miracles, they will take out evil spirits through my name, they will speak new languages, they will lift up snakes and if they drink anything that destroys, they will not be harmed. They will place their hands on the sick, and the sick will be cured.” [Mark chapter 6 verse 17 and 18]

In another place, the signs of a believing Christian are as follows, ‘the disciples came to Jesus and said that why can we not remove this evil spirit? He said to them, “It is due to your weak faith because I tell you the truth that if you have faith equal to a mustard seed, then you would say to the mountain that move from here, and it would go and nothing will be impossible for you.” [Matthew chapter 17 verse 19 and 20], i.e. if a Christian had faith equal to a mustard seed, then he could have moved the mountain.

The following signs of a true Christian are as follows as proven from these two places in the Injeel :

1. Removing evil spirits;

2. Speaking new languages without learning;

3. Picking up poisonous snakes;

4. Drinking poison and being safe from harm;

5. Placing the hands on a sick person and the person being cured;

6. Moving the mountains from their place.

So, whoever claims to be a Christian, he should first show these six signs in himself. Are you also a Christian? Leave the six, place your hands on a sick person and give him cure. What mountain will you move from its place? Here, this stone is lying here, move it just 10 or 20 feet away so that your being a true Christian is proven in the light of the Injeel."

Michael said, "Indeed all this is present in the Injeel, but where is it written that whichever Christian does not do these miracles is not a Christian? Secondly, all these signs are specific with the disciples, not the general Christians."

Isabella said, "Both of these statements are wrong. It is written clearly in the Injeel that whichever Christian has faith equal to a mustard seed, a mountain will move by him saying so. In effect, this means that in whichever Christians' heart there is less faith than a mustard seed, he will not be able to move the mountain from its place.

Secondly, regarding whether these signs are specific with the disciples and not the general Christians, it is also incorrect. This is because it is clearly written in the Injeel

that ‘and among the believers will be these miracles’. If these signs were specific with the disciples, then belief is also specific with them. From this it is proven that after the disciples there were not true Christians.”

Petrus said, “You unfortunate, that’s what I am saying that you cannot understand the secrets of the Injeel. O foolish girl! These miracles refer to spiritual matters, i.e. sickness means spiritual sicknesses and poison means blasphemy. This means that if there is an attack of blasphemy upon the Christian, then he will not move from his faith etc.”

Isabella said, “Think before you reply. You are calling me a fool it should not be that fool refers to you. Look, Hadhrat ‘Isa υ said, “Whoever believes in me will do the same work that I do, in fact, greater work.’ [Jonah chapter 14 verse 12] if miracles referred to spiritual affairs, then we have to accept that Hadhrat ‘Isa υ did not raise any dead person, nor did he give sight to any blind person, nor did he remove any evil spirits, nor did he heal anyone. In fact, he raised people that were spiritually dead, people that were blind at heart and he purified impure souls, i.e. he created the light of Imaan in them. However, you will not like this interpretation for Hadhrat ‘Isa υ, then why did you make up this new rule because Jesus said, “the work that I do”, so whatever work Jesus did and whichever type of work he did, the believers will have to do the same, otherwise they are not believers.”

Petrus replied, “It is very difficult to make this blasphemous girl understand. Explaining to her is not the treatment for her, but it should be what the inquisition

decides (after a case is heard, the criminal is tied to the stock).” He said to Michael, “Take this girl out of the house and tell the holy father that her sickness is untreatable. He should decide on another plan of action.”

Saying this, Michael and Petrus stood up and went to consult in another room. Mirano (Michael’s daughter) told Isabella to leave immediately for she does not know what trouble could come about by her staying. However, it was decided that Isabella and all her friends will gather in the evening in the famous garden of Cordova and they will think of the future. Promising to come in the evening, Isabella left the house of Michael and went home. She told herself that she was going home, but her steps were moving backwards instead of forwards and she was thinking about what trouble awaited her at home. Anyway, she reached home and ate at the insistence of her mother. Due to the flood of thoughts about her future, she could not decide anything of her future. She went to sit in her special room waiting for evening to fall. She was looking at her library. She was looking intensely at things. She looked with sorrow at the corners of the home and repeatedly thought about whether she was going to live in this house or not. Who knows who will use my things after I am gone? Who will read my books? Thinking and thinking, she abruptly said, “Never mind, someone will stay in this house, what it will mean to me if someone uses all the things, I am in search of the truth. Gratitude is for Allaah Talla that He found me, My deity guided me, gratitude is for Him. He granted me the wealth of truth. What shortage is there if I have found the truth? Thousands of such homes can be

sacrificed for a blessing like Islaam." Saying this, she fell down into prostration and began to thank Allaah Talla.

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Chapter 12

Isabella's Du'aa

Allaah Talla made evening come and Isabella left home before the appointed time for the garden of Cordova. She met Michael's daughter Mirano on the way while the other friends (that participated in the debate with Michael) already arrived.

Mirano said, “Isabella! There is great sorrow on your face. Sister, one day you will have to leave your relatives.”

Isabella said, “When I left you and reached home, then my condition changed. However, fortune had it that my mother could not come to me due to being busy, otherwise who knows what difficulty she would have brought? But now, through the grace of Allaah Talla, I am not worried because I am ready to undergo any difficulty for the sake of the truth.”

Mirano said, “Sister Isabella, today you also made them furious. Today you gave such replies to the priests that their desires broke and they could not answer. And the good thing about it was that whatever you proved; you proved it from the Injeel.”

Mertha said, “The strange thing is that even though they were silenced, they did not believe.”

Mirano said, “They may not testify with the tongue, but they will verify with the heart. After you left, my father (Michael) said to Petrus that brother, the fact is that the divinity of Christ is not proven from the Injeel, but what to do? We have to accept the decision of the church. Petrus accepted the weight of your proofs and he said that they were not without weight.”

Mertha said, “Never mind, from today’s discussion it was proven that Islaam is true and a well-grounded religion and Christianity is nothing but deviation.”

Mirano said to Isabella, “Will you like to leave your father, mother, brother, sister, family and life of comfort? If your father is severe on you and you are sent to the inquisition what will you do?”

Isabella replied, “I have taken all these things out of my mind right now. The deity that blessed me with the bounty of Islaam will help me and He will not let my good deeds go to waste. I am greatly consoled by this verse of the Qur’aan, ‘He who fears Allaah Talla, He will make a way out for him and will bless him will sustenance from avenues he cannot even think of.’”

Mirano, “well, when shall we go to the gathering of Ziyaad bin Umar?”

Isabella said, “We have to go there early so that we can take maximum benefit from the company of Ziyaad bin Umar and we will also not be late in returning home.”

Mirano said, “Shall we inform Ziyaad bin Umar of today’s events?”
Isabella said, “Why not? Now let us go so that we could reach at the time of ‘Isha, stay an hour and leave.”

Isabella and her friends left the garden of Cordova and headed for the Jami’ Cordova. On the way, Isabella told her friends of her intention that although I have become a Muslim at heart, but I have not accepted it formally. Therefore, I want to complete this custom at the truthful hands of Ziyaad bin Umar so that I could be blessed with

greater courage and firmness in the court of Allaah Talla and I could draw the help of Allaah Talla with complete faith. All her friends congratulated her on this intention and expressed their happiness. Half an hour later, all these girls entered the inner room of Umar Lahmi. Umar Lahmi's house was close to Ziyaad bin Umar's. Umar Lahmi informed Ziyaad bin Umar of their arrival. Consequently, the gathering became big after completing the 'Isha Salaah. The scholars, Mashayikh, poets and authors as well as others academics gathered there. After a light conversation Umar Lahmi asked Ziyaad bin Umar if the girls could come in his presence and if he could call them to his house.

The moment he reached the gathering, Ziyaad bin Umar enquired about all of them. After this, Isabella told Ziyaad bin Umar of the incidents of the last two days that happened between her father and the other two priests. She also mentioned the discussion she had with Michael and Petrus over various issues. She also mentioned the proofs that were presented in the discussion with Michael and Petrus. Upon hearing them, then scholars congratulated her and encouraged her. They also expressed surprise over the knowledge that she had.

Isabella said to Ziyaad bin Umar, "Whatever happened is passed. What is to happen, we shall see. However, my request now to you is that you make me a Muslim properly and include me amongst the worldwide family that believe in monotheism. Upon this request, he made her a Muslim and all those present made du'aa for steadfastness with sincerity.

Ziyaad bin Umar said, “Daughter Isabella, now that you have become a proper Muslim, you have to veil your face because Islaam commands women to cover themselves. Stay veiled in future as well. Together with this, it is compulsory upon you to perform the five times daily Salaah. Look, do not let Salaah go by because this is a doorway to success. Good, are these girls with you the ones you previously spoke about?”

Isabella said, “Yes, one is the daughter of Michael. Her name is Mirano. These two are my friends and confidants. Their names are Mertha and Hanana.”

Ziyaad bin Umar said, “Do they have any doubts about Islaam?”

Isabella said, “They have no doubt about the truthfulness of Islaam and they also have conviction in Islaam like myself. When Allaah Talla grants them the divine ability, they will also announce their Islaam properly. However, Mirano has some doubts in certain matters. That is why my spiritual father, Umar Lahmi will remove them. One day she will come here, present her doubts and she will be consoled.”

Umar Lahmi said, “It appears from your father’s behaviour that he will deal badly with you and it is not surprising if he secretly hands you over to the inquisition and in the morning, Michael and Petrus will inform him of the debate. He will definitely become antagonistic. Have you thought of any way of remedying the situation?”

Isabella said, “Allaah Talla knows best what will happen in future. I have handed over my matter to Him. However, I have definitely thought that if they put me through great difficulty, I shall come here.”
Umar Lahmi said, “You have a choice, you can come whenever you want and you will have to do it because since when did the Christians have so much tolerance that upon seeing you a Muslim and they do not trouble you and leave you on your condition?”

Isabella said to Ziyaad bin Umar, “My mentor, make du’aa for me that Allaah Talla I grants me patience, gratitude and steadfastness. Now permit us to leave.”

Ziyaad bin Umar and those in the gathering permitted them and Isabella and her three friends left and reached home.

Isabella slept on a bed in a corner of the house. She awoke much earlier than true dawn but she could not get out of bed. While laying there the sound of ‘Allaah Talla is the greatest’ touched her ears and like lightning it spread through her body. She heard the call ‘Allaah Talla is the greatest’ and became restless. The greatness of Allaah Talla – Rabb of the worlds, His grandeur and majesty, His awe and totality came before her. Uncontrollably, tears rolled from her eyes and her chest burst with the love of Allaah Talla. When she finished crying, she fell into prostration and supplicated before the Creator of the earth and the heavens, “O Allaah Talla, bless me with Your love and the love of Your beloved. O Allaah Talla, fill my heart with the light of Islaam and Tauheed and make following the Rasul my purpose of life. O Allaah Talla, I am grateful to You for

granting me a priceless bounty like Islaam and for granting me the honour of following Your beloved mercy unto the worlds. O Allaah Talla, bless my parents, my relatives and all the Christians and those that are astray with the bounty of Islaam. Keep us living upon Islaam and give us death on Islaam. O My Rabb, hear the one in difficulty at this time like me, for You are the Hearer and the Seer."

The moment Isabella completed this du'aa, she felt contentment in her soul and like a great burden was lifted from her head. She felt that a treasure of steadfastness, endurance and tolerance was put into her heart. She was happy because she attained such a treasure like Islaam. She was fearless and brave because Tauheed had removed the fear of everything besides Allaah Talla from her heart.

Isabella's mother also became very angry today. In all probability, Michael and Petrus told her all about the previous day's discussion and gave her the conviction that Isabella has turned renegade. In addition, all the doors of explanation were closed upon her.

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Chapter 13

Conspiracy

Isabella was greatly perturbed and was sitting silently in her room. A servant brought a letter and placed it in her hand.

'Sister Isabella, at this time I have to tell you a number of important things. Would you kindly take the trouble and come here immediately because a number of important things have been decided. Therefore do not delay in coming. I am anxiously waiting for you in another house. Come immediately with this servant.' [Your sister, Mirano]

The moment she got the message, she stood up. What did she know that it was not a letter from Mirano, but it was a conspiracy of the priests. Anyway, she went with the servant and they took the road that turns from Qasr ush Shuhadaa' and went straight to Rabat Romani. While walking, the servant turned into an alley and entered a grand house. The moment they entered the house, all the doors were closed and the unsuspecting Isabella was taken to another room. The doors of that room were also immediately closed. At this point, Isabella thought that she was probably caught. Finally, two or three white robed monks pushed Isabella to the staircase leading down to the basement. Now, Isabella came to her senses and understood that she is in the grip of the inquisition. Isabella placed her foot on the step and the monk gave the poor, delicate girl a hard blow on the back and said, "O accursed, why do you not go forward? Look, the fire of the anger of the Lord Christ is ready to burn you. Unfortunate, you have disgraced Christianity and you have dragged the honour of your father into the dust." Isabella remained silent but she was shivering out of fear. Taking in the blow she received, she went into the basement. On all sides there were human skeletons lying around and human skulls were hanging from the walls.

Going inside, **a monk** lighted a lamp and **said to Isabella,** “Now you have to stay here so that you become aware of the consequences of turning against the Lord Christ.”

The monk pointed to the skeletons and **said,** “They have been deputed to chastise you.”

Isabella remained silent and thought that I am possibly dreaming. In this time the monks locked the basement and left. They began with worship and exercise in their rooms. After a little while, Isabella came to her senses and quickly told herself that she is awake and that she was shut in this chamber of ghosts because of speaking the truth.

Allaah Talla made it such that the day came to an end and the dark cover of night enveloped the entire world. After an eighth part of the night passed, Isabella was taken out from the basement and she was given some porridge. At that time too, the monks snubbed her. Isabella was taken to various parts of the house where the monks were involved in devotions and other exercises.

The objective of taking her around was that possibly Isabella would see the worship and exercise of the Christian leaders and become awed and their difficulty would make them successful in their attempts. Isabella saw the worship of the monks very carefully. One person was chained and another was lashing him. Isabella became frightened and thought that this is probably a criminal like me, but she soon came to know that it was a method used to subdue the carnal self and satanic powers. The monks voluntarily took this torture upon themselves. In the large room of the house an idol of Maryam radhiyAllaah Tallau anha was placed.

The monks and nuns circled this statue and were sitting in meditation there. Some monks were lying along the wall with their faces down and some were sobbing in a corner because they did not eat for the last twenty days with the objective of subduing the self. Isabella definitely knew all this but she never witnessed it.

An elderly monk said to Isabella, 'Rejected girl, if you want to attain salvation, then do such exercises and please the Lord Christ. Only this type of exercises will ensure that your sins are forgiven.

Isabella laughed at this and said, "What need does God have for all this exercise? The purpose of religion is that man serves the creation by fulfilling the rights He has placed upon them, not that he hangs in a corner like a bat. Secondly, according to you, if the Lord Christ served as atonement, then there is no benefit in undergoing such difficulty."

The moment he heard this, **the monk**'s eyes became red and his veins began to show. He struck Isabella on the chest and **said,** "Hellish girl! You will never be reformed. Go and sit in your place. Your total treatment will happen there." The monk opened the basement door again and pushed the oppressed Isabella inside.

Isabella went and sat in a corner of the basement. The underground chamber was such that there were a great number of bones scattered there and on all four sides a human skeleton was shaped. Initially Isabella's mind was perturbed but now all her intellectual ability returned. She recited Qur'aanic Du'aas throughout the night. In this silent

chamber of the dead, if she had to hear the slightest sound, she became worried and looked in all directions. She then got control of herself and got busy in Du'aas. Finally, Allaah Talla let the night end and the morning sunshine let some dim light through the narrow and dark chamber. A little while later, the basement door opened and a monk brought her out.

Isabella was brought to the great hall of the house where statues of the Lord Christ and the twelve disciples were placed. The two great priests of the city were seated here and Isabella sat before them. First they expressed great anger and then they began to advise her.

They said, "Have you become a Muslim?" Isabella replied, "All praise is due to Allaah Talla, Allaah Talla I has granted me such a blessing like Islaam."

The priest said, "Stop praising Islaam, and tell me now that do you want to die a forbidden death or do you want to inherit the grace of Allaah Talla once again."

Isabella said, "After accepting Islaam, each person becomes an heir of the grace of Allaah Talla and there is no one more fortunate than him than the one whom Allaah Talla blesses with the divine ability of Islaam because this religion is a cause of the happiness and pleasure of Allaah Talla."

The priest said, "Do not praise a bloody religion like Islaam in front of me. I only want an answer of two words that do you want death or do you want to live in

Christianity and gain salvation. Reply quickly so that a decision can be made regarding you today."

Isabella said, "In times of before, the Christian martyrs tolerated what difficulties but they did not turn their face away from the truth. They were burnt alive, and they were thrown before lions and leopards. They were sawn into two but they did not let the truth leave their hands. **We learn that truth is real life.** If someone dies for the sake of truth, then accepting it is a means of the pleasure of Allaah Talla and a means of contentment for the heart. Because I am on the truth, that is why nothing of the world can remove me from the truth. The Qur'aan has taught me this lesson, 'My Salaah, my sacrifice, my life and my death is for Allaah Talla, the Rabb of the worlds and He has no partner. I have been commanded to remain on this and I am among the obedient.' [Surah An'aam section 4]

The priest said, "It is as though you do not want to leave Islaam and be included in the grace of the Lord Christ. Today, decision will be made about you."

Isabella said, "Decide whatever you want. Make it fearlessly and openly. The most that you can do is taking my life but you do not know that the being to whom I am related is Allaah Talla, He will remain forever."

The priest said, "When death will come in front of you, then you will forget all these verses of the Qur'aan and your Deity. We will only accept if the Qur'aan or Muhammad (ε) can save you from death."

Isabella said, “This was the same question that the Jews posed to Hadhrat ‘Isa υ that if you are true, then come down from the cross and save yourself from death. Now, he was lying (May Allaah Talla save us) in that he could not save himself from death (according to the Injeel) or you are following the Jews step by step.”

The priest said, “O the devil personified, hellish girl, unfortunate, despicable! You call us Jews? Remain silent and wait for your death.”

Isabella said, “It is better that you also remain silent and leave me upon my condition and you can do whatever you want.”

The priest said to the monks, “Look, lock this girl in the basement and do not give her anything to eat or drink. The Holy Father orders that the girl be handed over to the inquisition. This will be decided tomorrow.”

Hearing this, the monks caught Isabella and pushed her out of the room towards the chamber. Outside, the beating was worse. Isabella fell down a number of times but she immediately got up. They finally pushed her into the basement and locked it.

Three days had passed since Isabella was put into the basement. She was not taken out at any time, day or night. But she remained happy and content. She was so content that it was as though angels were deputed to keep her firm and steadfast. In the loneliness of the night, the human skeletons made the environment quite fearful. The monks

and nuns were busy in their worship and exercises and in the night, their cries and sounds could be heard by Isabella.
In the meantime, Isabella’s friends (Mirano, Mertha and Hanana) came to know that Isabella was deceived and called to a particular monastery and was locked in its basement. They also came to know that she was being severely oppressed. Finally, the three consulted and decided to inform Umar Lahmi and Ziyaad bin Umar of this. One night, they went to the gathering of Ziyaad bin Umar and told him of what transpired. When hearing it, the Muslims began to sob.

One person said, “By Allaah Talla, if we carry on like this, then the Christians will place great obstructions in the path of propagating Islaam. Isabella is now our sister. Therefore, it is the duty of every Muslim to free her from the clutches of the Christians, no matter what is at stake.”

Another person drew his sword and said, “Hadhrat, if you command, we shall go now and free her. Regrettably our sister is undergoing such great difficulty. If we continue to remain silent, then it will be great injustice.”
Umar Lahmi said, “Brothers, excitement and emotions will be of no avail. This matter is placed before Ziyaad bin Umar. Whatever he commands, we shall do.”

Everyone said to Ziyaad bin Umar, “O mentor, we are present and ready to carry out whatever you command.”
Ziyaad bin Umar said, “I advise you not to show any form of excitement, otherwise the life of Isabella could be taken. If we want, we could call the Muslim army and get her

released. But expedience demands that we plan. If Isabella is undergoing difficulties, then, Allaah Talla willing it will serve to strengthen her Imaan. The truth is that the enjoyment of difficulties alone will teach a person appreciation for Islaam."

Umar Lahmi said to Mirano, Mertha and Hanana, "Tell us what is your opinion and to what degree can you help?"

Mirano said, "If you command us and you leave the matter to us, then we could easily save Isabella from this difficulty."

Umar Lahmi said, "We are very grateful."

Ziyaad bin Umar said, "You have permission to make as much effort as possible to free Isabella according to your way."

The three girls made a firm promise and sought permission to return home. They were permitted and left for their homes. Throughout the walk home they thought of a plan to free Isabella.

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Chapter 14

A Changed Scene

One day, Mirano, Mertha and Hanana went to the house of the head priest. They said to him that because Isabella is our friend and our classmate, she will accept what we say. Therefore, if you give us permission to meet her, then possibly we could be successful in bringing her back to Christianity. Give us this last chance of explaining to her and making her understand. We have ninety per-cent hope that we will be successful.

Holy father, Isabella is a piece of our heart. That is why we shall not spare anything in trying to persuade her back to the religion. Please grant us permission to go to the monastery and the chance to speak to her.

The head priest replied, “Let that accursed girl go to hell. She has become firm and the Lord Christ has cut her off and thrown her away. I fear that persuades you as well.”

Mirano said, “Well, what harm is there in trying to make her understand a final time. If she accepts, then well and good, otherwise you can punish her how you like.”

The head priest said, “OK, I shall let you go into the monastery and speak to Isabella on condition that two monks remain with you throughout the course of the conversation. This is so that the unfortunate girl does not get the opportunity to lead you astray and you are not affected by her blasphemous talk. Very well, go, you can establish your proof against Isabella tomorrow night by going to the monastery. I shall inform the head monk today.”

After obtaining permission, Mirano, Mertha and Hanana left happily and began to prepare to leave their homes permanently. This was because the plan they thought of was of such a type that together with Isabella they had to also leave their homes forever. Anyway, for this permanent journey, they took great precaution and adopted secrecy. They also sought the help of Umar Lahmi and Ziyaad bin Umar before time for this occasion.

When all preparations were complete, these three girls came out of their homes and gathered at a place and they got ready to leave at the time that the head priest stipulated. On the other side, the head priest wrote to the person in charge at the monastery that the friends of Isabella will come to the monastery at a specific time and they will try and explain to Isabella a final time. Therefore he should permit them to enter the monastery and that he should afford them whatever help is possible regarding their venture. Possibly, through the explanation of Isabella's friends, she would get the divine ability to be guided. Subsequently, the moment the three girls reached the monastery, the monks and the nuns welcomed them cordially and they understood that the Lord Christ sent the Mother Mary in the form of these girls for the guidance of Isabella and the help of all the saints is with them. The three girls entered the monastery and sat in the centre of the large room in front of the statue of Hadhrat Maryam radhiyAllaah Tallau anha. The group of monks surrounded them.

A nun said to Mirano, "May the blessings of the Lord Christ be with you and may God make you successful in your objective. You know that some devil has deceived this

unlucky girl Isabella. What a pious and knowledgeable girl she was! May God disgrace the devil, what pious people has he deceived."

Another nun said, "May the shadow of Mary be upon you. By the oath of the deliverer, you will definitely be successful in your objective. Your beloved countenances give us conviction of success. If Isabella once again gets the grace of the Lord Christ, then this will be your greatest achievement. This story has spread all over Cordova and due to this incident the nose of all the Christians has been severed."

A third nun said, "By the Lord, just last night I saw girls like you three in a dream. They were sitting in the lap of Mary and the Lord Christ was indicating from the other side that the honour of the Church will be restored through these girls."

All the monks said upon hearing this dream, "These are the girls, these are the girls."

The chief monk said, "Isabella is locked underground and her hands and feet are chained. The unfortunate thing is so hard that the more punishment meted out to her, the more she praises Islaam. In this condition she does not stop preaching to us. Good, when will you go to her?"

Mirano said, "Our intention is to talk calmly to her and to explain to her the realities of Christianity. The condition is that no one should be present except one or two monks. The sun is beginning to set. After a third of the night has passed, bring Isabella to us here so that we could encourage

her to do worship and exercises. Possibly, the chance of explaining to her does not come again and through the blessings of Mary, her chest will be opened for the crucified Lord.”

The chief monk said, “We are ready to carry out whatever you order. I have just told all the monks that they should not let their worship and exercises disturb you and they should stay away from you completely.”

Mirano said, “We are very grateful to you. Very good, let us first go and meet Isabella in the basement. After usual light talk that deals exclusively with her, bring her here (pointing to the statue of Mary). Look, our lord is ready to take Isabella in her lap and we hope that Isabella will not reject going into this noble lap.”

Saying this, two monks and the three friends went to the basement. The lock was opened and they all disappeared in the darkness.

Hanana said, “Oh! How dark it is.”

The monk said, “I will light the lamp now. Move a little forward and see that you do not slip because a bed of human bones is spread here.”

The monk went forward and lit the lamp. After this, Isabella saw her friends. The moment she saw them, she was overjoyed. She did not see them properly and screamed, ‘Peace be upon you’.

The monk said, "You unfortunate, rejected girl! Yesterday you were beaten for this but you do not stop it." The moment the girls heard the call of 'peace be upon you', they involuntarily laughed. However, when they came closer and saw Isabella in chains, they all wiped tears from their eyes."

Mirano said, "Isabella, how are you? How did stay here? Look what kind of punishment you have to suffer because of turning away from the truth."

Isabella said smiling, "Sister, what you are saying is true. Some people were crucified for the sake of truth."

Mirano said, "We have not come here to talk to you, but so that we could adopt your way." Saying this, all the friends laughed and the monks laughed along with them.

Mirano said, "Isabella, for how long will you remain in the claws of the devil? Look at how perturbed the Christians of Cordova are at your blasphemy. It is better that you leave Islaam and come into the shadow of the cross."

Isabella said, "There is no other way of saving yourself from Satan except by accepting Islaam. This is the strong fort where a person can take protection and then fight successfully against the devil. It is useless to think that a person could be saved from the grip of the devil by accepting Christianity. If you have studied the Injeel, then you will know that even the noble disciples could not come out of the grip of the devil and Hadhrat 'Isa υ himself

called some of the disciples the devil. When these disciples could not be saved from the effect of the devil and they were trained and taught under the supervision of Hadhrat ‘Isa υ, God according to you, then how can the Christians of today be saved from the grip of the devil? However, Islaam says that the devil cannot even touch the pious servants of Allaah Talla. [Juz 14 section 2]

Mirano said, “You have once again started the discussion in which you were defeated by the priests.” (She laughed and said this). And we have become successful through the grace of God. Therefore, leave this religious discussion. Look at your sufferings. Oh, Isabella! This is the punishment of God upon you that today, being the daughter of the head priest of Cordova, you sleep on thorns and your delicate hands and feet are in chains. May God have mercy on your condition.” **Isabella said,** “If the truth could be left in order to save oneself from difficulty, then the Christian martyrs would not have drunk from the cup of martyrdom. If difficulties came upon untruth, then most of the Christians who would be the pride of the church would remain upon evil. Ask yourself the truth, the amount of difficulty I receive through your talk is less than that which I get by sleeping on thorns and having my hands and feet chained. Have you come to give me difficulty upon difficulty?”

Mirano said to the monk, “Isabella will never be defeated by debate. The only treatment for her is that tonight she should be included in our exercise and worship in front of the statue of Maryam (radhiyAllaah Tallau anha). You will

see that tonight she will turn around and her heart will be turned to the crucified Christ.”

The monk said, “May God make it such, but apparently, it seems very difficult to bring Isabella towards the truth.”

Mirano said, “The law is that the more severe a person is, equally quickly he/she will believe. Look at what a great enemy St. Paul was? What difficulties did the believers not have to tolerate under him? But later on, the same person became the pillar of Christianity and he was the recipient of most of God’s grace.”

The monk said, “You speak the truth. God will do the same with Isabella and she will come and join you.”

Mirano said, “Good. Now we have to go from here and prepare for worship in this very same large room.”

She said to the monk, “Look, after three hours of the night has passed, then bring Isabella to our room. Leave a nun with Isabella to supervise her.”

The monk said, “Very good. Isabella will be brought to you at the appointed time.”

Mirano said, “Will you take the trouble of getting another monk to stay with us throughout the night?”

The monk said, “Most certainly. But you know that we remain in worship and remembrance of God throughout the night.”

Mirano said, “According to your likes. It is not something necessary. At the time of the morning discussion you should stay with us as planned.”

The monk said, “Definitely, not only me, but the other monks will also be present to hear your discussion.”

Mertha said, “If the Lord Christ wishes, then the objective will be attained this very night and there will be no need to discuss.”

Mertha said this in such a way that all the girls understood what this meant. Only the monk did not. After this, Mirano, Mertha and Hanana came out of the basement along with the monk. They came to the large room of the monastery and the monk then locked the basement once again. After eating and other necessities, Mirano, Mertha and Hanana took a walk around the monastery another time and spoke to the monks and nuns.

The monks and nuns of the monastery got ready for the night exercises. These three friends came to their room. The objective of walking around the monastery and talking to the nuns was to find the nun that did the greatest worship. Consequently, they found such a nun and they learnt at what times she was involved in worship at night.

It was close to three hours passing and the three girls were quietly discussing. In this time the door of the large room opened and the same monk entered once again. The three friends saw him and stood up out of respect because he was the head of all the monks of the monastery. The monk came

and said that Isabella has been taken out from the basement and will be brought before you as promised and a nun will also be brought here quickly.

Mirano said, “You should send such a nun that is the greatest worshipper and stays awake at night. She should also be saintly. Is there such a nun in this monastery?”

The monk replied, “All the nuns that are here are all worshippers and they tolerate different types of difficulties for the sake of the Christian God. However, one nun is the most devoted and pious. She performs miracles and things are opened up to her. Her name is Arqia. Regarding her family, it is sufficient to say that she is the princess of France. She has given up wealth and rule and has sacrificed herself for the sake of Mary.”

Mirano said, “Our objective is attained. We needed such a nun who would worship with us and she could place her spiritual effect upon Isabella. Does she perform miracles as well?”

The monk said, “Her miracles are known far and wide. Have you not heard your father Michael talking about her? Take this that she drinks poison but it does not affect her. One time, a fearful poisonous snake entered this monastery and fell on the feet of Arqia. I saw this myself.”

Mirano said, “May the name of God be raised. Our work is done. Now let us go. Send Isabella and Arqia to us.”

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Chapter 15

Princess of France

A little while later, Isabella was brought into the large room where her three friends were sitting. The monk said that the princess of France, Arqia will soon finish her preliminary exercises and will arrive. Saying this, the monk left. Now Isabella, Mirano, Mertha and Hanana got an opportunity to discuss their secrets. They discussed the present circumstances in detail and they shed light on the different plans they had made in order to save Isabella from all the difficulties. They said that in order to save herself from this permanent difficulty, she should temporarily become a Christian or she should adopt the slightest stance of softness. However, Isabella rejected this view and said that whatever difficulties I face for Islaam, Allaah Talla willing, it will wipe out my sins and will serve to strengthen my faith. If Allaah Talla wants to save me from the clutches of the oppressors, then He will also provide the means, otherwise, no one has choice in His decisions. After making their plans firm, all the girls became involved in exercises. The worship of Isabella was only recitation of the Qur'aanic verse, 'O my Rabb, take me with an entry of truth...' [Surah Bani Israa'eel section 8] Mirano recited Durud and Mertha and Hanana recited other du'aas. In this time, the princess of France came and the saintly Arqia entered. Everyone welcomed her.

Arqia said, "I am very sorry that Isabella has left the fold of the Lord and has joined the disbelievers. We do not

know why the devil has taken control of her. I saw just last night in a dream that the great Muslim scholars were burning in hell. This unfortunate girl also wanted to join them. If she takes the cross of the Lord over her shoulders once again and stays for a few days with me, then I will show her the Lord."

Mirano said, "Surely it is a matter of shame that the daughter of our spiritual father has done blasphemy. Today we have given you the trouble that with your spiritual attention, you should affect Isabella and bring her back to the feet of the Lord. Isabella was not silenced with proof, but there is now a need to pacify her spiritually."

Arqia said, "Very good. We shall make an effort through prayer and exercise to turn the heart of Isabella to Mary. I have conviction that this girl will be reformed by the morning. I see that the Lord has opened his arms and is stretching them towards Isabella and Isabella is also ready to go into his lap. Do not worry. We shall see what will happen by morning. (At this point, Isabella wanted to say something, but Mertha indicated to her to keep quiet). Arqia was talking of the miracles she showed thus far and the door opened once again.

The same chief monk entered and addressed Mirano saying, "If you need more nuns, they could be brought."

Mirano said, "Thank you for your offer. There is no need for another nun. It will be your great favour if you come once or twice at night and give us your views."

The monk promised that he will come every two hours and he will carry out all that they order. Saying this, he turned around, closed the door and left. Now, one hour was left for midnight. Therefore, all the girls got busy in worship together with Arqia. Arqia sat at the statue of Mary and each girl took her place ten feet apart from each other. Mirano took her place close to Isabella so that if there was anything to say, it could be said easily without anyone else hearing. When an hour of their worship passed then Mirano said to Isabella in a very low tone, "Look, do not butt in the conversations we have, listen silently and accept everything we say. Saying this, Mirano kept silent once again. Arqia was doing strange things in the flood of her piety. Sometimes she put both her hands forward as though she wanted to take someone in her lap. Sometimes she wailed and sometimes she screamed. She was repeating, "Yes, may the Lord bless you and may the Holy Spirit soon help us."

One hour later Mirano let out a scream and fell unconscious. Isabella sat at her place without the slightest movement, but Arqia, Mertha and Hanana immediately ran to her and started sprinkling water on her head. Arqia stopped them from this and said that Mirano has definitely seen the Lord and our worship will definitely finish in success today. Do not worry. This is our good fortune that the Lord has come to our monastery."

Going to Isabella, she said, "Is it not so Isabella? Do you now have any excuse in not lifting the cross of the Lord?" Isabella did not answer and listened silently. This silence of Isabella gave Arqia more conviction that definitely the

Lord has come here and placed blessings on Isabella. Mirano was still in her state of unconsciousness.

In this time, the head monk entered and worriedly asked, “What happened here?” Arqia immediately began to relate her tales and said with great conviction that the Lord descended upon Mirano. The moment the monk heard this, he affirmed the explanation of Arqia because he testified to the sainthood of Arqia from before. Finally, Mirano was brought to her senses and after she came round the following discussion took place,

Monk: Mirano, tell us, what is your condition? If there is any good news, then tell us?

Mirano: (Pointing to Arqia) – It is the manifestation of your miracle and blessings. Your munificence has made me meet the Holy Spirit.

Arqia: May the name of the Lord be raised. Blessed be the name of the crucified Christ.

Monk: Yes, Yes. What did you see?

Mirano: I was involved in worship and suddenly a handsome, beautiful person came running to me. He looked carefully at Isabella. After that his face beamed with a smile.

Monk: Congratulations, congratulations.

Mirano: I was looking at the person and he turned towards me. I saw a sign on his face. It was written in light, ‘The Holy Spirit’.

Isabella laughed involuntarily at this. However, she turned the laughter into a cough.

Arqia said, “O Lord, blessed be your name.”

Mirano replied, “He then took out a vial and poured a few drops on Isabella’s head.”

The monk said, “It was definitely the drops of faith. Isabella your fortune has come.”

Mirano said, “After that the holy spirit told me two things...”

“What were the two things?” **asked the monk.**

Mirano said, “He spoke regarding the church in the south of Cordova. It is deserted today. The bones of the pious are kept there for the visitors who want blessings. I am going there and the Lord is waiting for you there as well. He is spreading his hands of blessings for you.”

Arqia said, “The crucified lord! May your name be raised. By Mary, what a blessed revelation and the moment I put my foot here, I saw the Lord. Look, the sighting of Mirano has affirmed what I said.”

The monk said, “Now tell us the second thing that the Holy Spirit said.”

Mirano said, “The second thing...” “Yes.” “The second thing cannot be told here. I have been commanded so.”

"Did the Holy Spirit say that you should not mention the second thing?"

Mirano said, "Yes. He said that I should mention it in front of others."

"Very well, tell us if it was regarding someone or regarding some work."

"I can tell this much that it was regarding you. O Holy Father, congratulations. We did not know you had such a high status before the Lord."

Due to the fact that the monk was Roman Catholic, he easily believed and was easy going. That is why he believed this just as he believed the other things.

In his fit of joy, when he heard this from the tongue of Isabella, **he said,** "We did not know that you had such a high status before the Lord."

Arqia fell at the feet of the monk and began rubbing her head on his feet. The monk was ecstatic. He stood motionless and said, "Daughter, be at ease, you will be with me in paradise."

They remained in the motions of joy for two hours and after they cooled down **Arqia said to the monk,** "So what should we do?"

The monk said, "You should look for the Lord at the place where he commanded Mirano to look."

Addressing Isabella he said, "O girl, the truth is that it is through you that today the Holy Spirit descended. Definitely, just on meeting the Lord, you will become a saint and the kings will seek blessings from your clothes."

Mirano said, "Do we have to go to the old church which the Holy Spirit commanded us to go to?"

The monk said, "You simple girl! Do you have any doubt about going there, even after the Holy Spirit said that we should go to that place by morning?"

Mirano said, "Well then, lock Isabella in the basement and prepare to leave."

The monk said, "Well done, well done, you are leaving the person for whom the Holy Spirit came and the one on account of whom we had the honour of seeing the Lord. **Look, the special grace of the Lord was upon Isabella, just as the grace of the Lord came upon St. Paul that despite being the great enemy of the Lord, he was blessed and graced.** Get up and take Isabella along and go to the church."

Hanana said, "What will happen if Isabella gets lost on the way?"

The monk said laughing, "Very good, then why did the Lord call us to His Holy court? As though the Lord does not know even this much that the one whom I am calling will run away?"

Arqia said, "I feel that it is not appropriate to delay because the Holy Spirit said that we should go there quickly."

Looking to the sky she said, "O Lord, I see your beloved Holy Spirit. O Lord, Your name is blessed."

Everyone said in chorus, "O Lord, Your name is blessed."

The monk said, "I am taking the donkeys of the monastery out and keeping them ready outside. You also get ready in the meanwhile. The donkeys move fast and will take you there in half an hour."

Saying this, the monk called a few servants and told them to bring the donkeys outside. Consequently, the order was immediately carried out. He kept his departure secret. The monk was very happy that Isabella will repent from her sins immediately upon going there and seeing the Lord she will lift the cross of Christ and the Head priest (Isabella's father) will be astonished upon witnessing this miracle.

Now everyone got ready to leave. Isabella, Hanana, Mertha, Mirano, Arqia and the monk all mounted the fast donkeys. Upon the instruction of Mirano, Isabella was kept in the centre as a precaution. In three quarters of an hour they reached the church of St. Peter. The corpses and bones of the Christian martyrs were kept here. This had a special status in Christianity. Christian women came from far off to attain blessings just as the ignorant Muslims go to Ajmer and Nizaam ud Deen, Dehli.

There was a long time before morning. The fearful pictures in the church created fear and worry. Arqia and the monk fell at the feet of two large statues and began to scream and wail because they had conviction that before morning, they will see the Lord and the Holy Spirit will hug them. On the one hand, there was weeping in the dead of the night, and on the other hand Isabella and her friends were involved in some other plans. Suddenly, the four girls took out a rope and rags that they kept hidden and immediately went to the monk that was crying and prostrating before a statue and caught him. Two girls caught his hands and two caught his legs. They tied him up tightly and stuffed his mouth with the rag. This fellow could not even cry out for help. Arqia was prostrating before another statue. After they finished off with the monk, the girls went to Arqia and said in her ears, “Holy sister, come, we will show you the Lord.”

Immediately upon hearing this, Arqia stood up in a flash. When she reached the helpless monk, **she cried,** “What is this?”

Isabella said, “This is your Lord whom you have come to see.”

The girls told Arqia of what laid ahead of her and gave her the message of Islaam. They said that if you want to see the true soul and complete man, then say, ‘There is none worthy of worship but Allaah Talla and Muhammad is the Rasul-Messenger of Allaah Talla’, otherwise you will never see your false Gods until doomsday.” **Saying this,** the four girls mounted the donkeys and all ran away quickly.

After they ran, Arqia stood in silence. It was as though her senses and thinking left her. Finally, through indications in the dim candle light, the monk caught her attention. First he removed the rag in his mouth and then freed his hands and legs. They screamed to the other visitors who came out from their rooms. Isabella and her friends could not be seen.

Isabella and her three friends, Mertha, Mirano and Hanana left on their fast donkeys and reached the home of Umar Lahmi. They informed Umar Lahmi and the other scholars there of the incidents that happened. All the Muslims were surprised at the intelligence of Mirano and they congratulated and welcomed the girls who were saved from the Christian oppression. These four girls were brought to the daily night gathering after ‘Isha of Ziyaad bin Umar. Many other scholars, philosophers, doctors, traditionalists, linguists and Imams were present. All the Muslims who lived close by had knowledge of the conditions of Isabella therefore the presence of all the girls at once in the gathering gave those present joys and happiness and all the people got busy in listening to their interesting story.

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Chapter 16

A Secret Meeting

The details of this gathering as well as the others will be given later. Now we will go into the church of St. Peter and in the monastery and see and learn what happened to the monk of the monastery and the nun, as well as the head priest. In addition, how did Michael hear the news and what this incident did to the Christians of Cordova.

It so happened that when these four girls left the church of St. Peter mounted on the donkeys, the poor monk was left lying there. His mouth was stuffed with the rag and he could not speak. Finally, the nun removed the rag from his mouth and untied the ropes from his hands and legs. Even after becoming free, he remained senseless and the nuns were running about.

When the visitors who were staying in the rooms heard of this, they began to shake their heads and according to custom, they stood crying before the skeletons of the saints. When the mourning was over, the monk and nuns came to their senses. The visitors then mounted two donkeys and headed for the monastery. All the monks and nuns welcomed them the moment they entered the monastery. However, when they saw shame, regret and defeat on their faces, they were also astonished.

In this time, one person took the courage and came forward. **He asked the monk,** “Respected sir, the Holy Father has sent this letter. It should be replied at once.”

Holding his head, the monk said, “Oh, how shall I show my face to the Holy Father? Regret, the accursed devil has deceived me. Oh, the same devil who did not leave the lord without testing him. Filthy Isabella! And O accursed girls! Curses be on you and daughter of Satan! You have put us to shame. O Lord, you see what they have done to your holy servants.”

Listening to this wailing of the monk, the entire monastery was silenced and they were looking at one another. The monk opened the letter of the Holy Father with shaking hands and read out the following,

‘Three of Isabella’s friends have gone to the monastery to explain to her. I informed you of this. I think that it is very difficult for Isabella to revert. If she is in the same condition, then hand her over to the inquisition. For this end, I shall send a few people to you by evening. Hand the girl over to them. Now send the three girls back. It should not be that the devil misleads them and they also fall in the trap of Isabella.’

The monk heard this and began crying and wailing. After he stopped he said that what reply should I give? I shall go to the Holy Father myself so that I could explain to him how the devil tests the pious. Saying this, he stood up to go and he took the princess of France with her. When they reached the house of the head priest, the monk explained everything and the former listened in silence.

When the monk finished narrating, **the head priest asked,** “When I told you to strictly guard Isabella, then why were

you deceived by the girls? Why did you leave the monastery relying upon their false visions? If such a situation had arisen why did you not inform me?"

The monk said, "Holy Father, what reply can I give? Indeed we have erred and were deceived by the devil."
"Tell me, which monks were living in the monastery that participated in this trick of the girls."

"No one took part in the trick and conspiracy. As a precautionary measure, I did not inform anyone. Only myself and this nun whose holiness the world affirms was part of this incident."

The head priest said to his servant, "Call Petrus and Michael. Tell them to leave everything and to come along with me."

The slave went and after a little while returned with Michael, Petrus and three other priests holding their chests. They came to the house of the head priest.

The head priest said to Michael, "Your daughter Mirano has run off with my daughter Isabella."

"What, what are you saying, Holy Father?"

"Not only Isabella and Mirano, but Hanana and Mertha also deceived those in the monastery and ran away."

"Holy Father, tell me, what happened?"

The head priest told the monk to relate the entire incident. The monk then related the entire incident in great detail with tears in his eyes. Michael and Petrus also cried.

The priest said, “Why are you crying? Send curses upon those filthy souls. I only regret that Isabella was saved from the inquisition.”

Michael said, “Holy Father, this is not a small incident. The Christians throughout Cordova will be disgraced. There will be no place to show ourselves.”

The head priest, “Very well, now find out where the four girls are. We have to hurriedly make arrangements to find out.”

Three days after this conversation, after a third of the night had passed, all the priests and zealous Christians of Cordova gathered in the huge cathedral. They were secretly informed to gather in the huge cathedral. Apparently, there was no arrangements for a gathering because no arrangements were made for lighting, carpets etc. People came and sat silently in the huge hall in front of the sacrificial altar. From this it was known that messages were given in secret in order to attend this special meeting.

A cross was erected on the altar and the Lord Christ was hanging from there. Below the cross, Mary sat upon her knees displaying obedience. All the walls of the cathedral had pictures of the past saints and it looked like pictures from Roman and Egyptian mythology. Below these walls all those present sat with respect and silence. Virgin nuns,

who were the beloved past time of the monks were also seen in the crowd. The head priest, who was also the leader of the cathedral and Isabella's father welcomed them. Despite all this going on, the silence outside was such that no one outside could think that there was such a gathering inside.

Despite this, the Muslims got information about the gathering and this secret of the priests could not be kept. The head priest and Michael stood at the door and indicated to the zealous Christians to keep quiet. People carried on coming. A few thousand Christians gathered in the cathedral. The head priest was waiting for more people to come.

Below the idol of the hanging Christ, **one person said to the person next to him very quietly,** "Brother, may the Lord's name be glorified. Look I have to give an envelope to the Head Priest and I have to give it before the meeting begins. However, Michael told me to call a few people. I have to now do that. It would be your kindness if you would give this letter to the Holy Father the moment he arrives."

The other person said, "With pleasure, be at ease. I shall give it to the Holy Father the minute he arrives."

The person replied, "Thank you very much. Well, I am off to do my duty." Saying this, the person looking down went away.

The church was now full of Christians and priests. They were also happy that now no one else is to come. Once

everyone arrived, they then investigated whether any Muslim was present. Most of the priests moved around the gathering and saw each and every person and were satisfied. After this, the command was given that the cathedral doors be closed and the meeting be started. The feelings and enthusiasm of the Christians was so electric, that if they were not asked to be silent and calm, a huge storm would have erupted. For more peace of mind, a few people were made to stand outside the church so that no one from outside could hear what the meeting was about. When all this was done, the Head Priest, Michael and ten or twelve others stood atop a high place. One person from the front row stood up and gave the letter in the hand of the Head Priest which one person gave to him.

Before opening and reading the letter, **the priest said in a low voice,** "My children, today you have been given the difficulty of coming for a great purpose. The priest Michael will inform you of it. Now listen to the speech of the priest with ease and silence."

Michael stood to deliver his speech and the Head Priest sat down to open the letter and began to read. He read just a few lines and let out a scream. He stood up at once. His entire body was shaking in anger. The entire audience was shocked and began to look at the Head Priest. Michael had to stop his speech due to this extreme anger.

After a little while, **the Holy Father spoke,** "Look, just now someone gave me a letter of Isabella's. In this letter she invited all of us to accept Islaam. Who gave this letter to me?"

A Christian said, "Holy Father, I gave it. One person told me to give it to you..." The poor man could not complete his sentence and from all sides a storm erupted. From every side, fists and kicks landed on him. It was a gathering of thousands and turn by turn he suffered their blows. It was nothing short of Qiyaamat for this man. The person screamed and cried that he had nothing to do with it, but who would heed his call in this world of enthusiasm and fury? When he was finally beaten unconscious, he was put in a closet of the Cathedral. The confusion took time to settle.

After some silence, the Head Priest stood up and said, "This person seems to be a Muslim who has adopted our appearance. He wore our clothes and has come to spy. Never mind, we shall see about him tomorrow. Now we have to see that the girls about whom this meeting is being held, they are calling us to such a bloody, oppressive and uncivilised (May Allaah Talla protect us) religion. Tell me, how can we be successful in taking them out? What method can we adopt to bring them back to the fold?"

Michael stood up and said, "Brothers, the purpose for which we called this meeting has been destroyed because of this new letter of Isabella's. What can we do after this except patience and pray to God to take her back in His shade or send her to hell quickly."

The Head priest stood up and said, "Bring the person here. He could tell us more if we force him, even though we know that the Muslims are very hard and they do not let their secrets out easily. He is with us at the moment. Maybe

by making him scared and threatening him, we will attain our objective. The poor oppressed man was taken out from the closet of the cathedral and was brought onto the stage. The man was not himself because he was badly wounded.

When the Head Priest saw him he said, "This is the priest of the Northern Church and is my nephew. He is still breathing!"

When the poor injured man was identified, all the priests were very sorry. When he came to his senses the next day, he explained the entire incident and he mentioned how one person gave him the letter and left the church very quickly. After hearing this, the priests understood that this is the mischief of the Muslims. They therefore became despondent about Isabella and her friends. The secret meeting at night was a failure and nothing could be decided in all the commotion. Isabella's letter is presented below. In it she invited her father and the priests to Islaam.

'All praise is due to Allaah Talla, Rabb of the worlds. He created the earth and skies and every atom of the universe through His power. Along with the physical system, He also established the spiritual system through revelation and the Messengers. May thousands and thousands of peace and blessings be upon the pure and noble Messenger who came to the world and took them out from deviation and darkness to the enlightened world of spirituality, and who guided us to the straight path upon which all the Messengers and pious ones walked and whoever tread it, attained the closeness of Allaah Talla and attained the peace and salvation from of Allaah Talla.

O My honourable father, you know well that I have accepted Islaam after great thinking and pondering. This is because according to my research, it is the only religion that is free from extremism and teaches that which is correct. **I left Christianity because it is full of extremities and it teaches all that which contradicts the teachings of the Ambiyaa'.** The reality will become clear to you from the following comparison:

1. Islaam teaches that the being of Allaah Talla is alone in terms of being and qualities. He is unique and has all goodness and perfection. The Qur'aan says that Allaah Talla is one. He is independent and needs no support. He is not the son of anyone, nor does He have a son. There is none like Him. He is Ever Living and Established. He is pure from sleep, drowsiness, eating, drinking and human needs. In summary, until where should I praise Him. Study the Qur'aan to learn this.

   Contrary to this, Christianity preached that God is not one, but three. The father, the son and the Holy Spirit. Hadhrat 'Isa υ is the only son of God and he is the Creator, from eternity just like the father, whereas it is written in the Injeel that Hadhrat 'Isa υ used to eat, drink, sleep, breathe and was in need of all human needs. If God needs all these things like man, then how can he be said to be worthy of being God? What difference has remained between man and God? The Qur'aan has clearly stated that calling Hadhrat 'Isa υ God or the son of God is polytheism and the person who believes it is a

disbeliever. The Christians call Christ God and thereby attributing false things to Allaah Talla. The Qur'aan states that Hadhrat 'Isa υ is just another Messenger and Rasul like Hadhrat Moosa υ, Hadhrat Dawud υ, Hadhrat Sulayman υ, Hadhrat Ayyub υ, Hadhrat Hud υ, Hadhrat Nuh υ and the other Messengers. He was a man and he was creation, not a deity. In fact, he was a worshipper. Think for yourself, how clear and acceptable this decision of the Qur'aan is and how complicated and unacceptable the belief of the Christians is."

2. According to Islaam, man is born naturally pure and free from sin. However, upon attaining maturity, other people lead him astray. Also, Allaah Talla gave every human being the ability to practice upon His commands and the ability to stay away from the prohibitions. The Qur'aan says that Hadhrat Aadam υ did not commit any sin and all the Messengers are pure and sinless. Therefore the aspect of inherited sin is wrong and is an invention of Shaytaan. Christianity says that every person was born sinful, to the degree that even the Messengers committed sin and the sin of Hadhrat Aadam υ made every man sinful. It is quite apparent that this is totally against intelligence, natural disposition and intuitive testimony that Hadhrat Aadam υ commits the sin (this is also not even proven) and other people have to suffer the consequences. Therefore, regarding this, the Islaamic teaching is correct and its decision is in harmony with intelligence, the nature of man and the nature of Nubuwwah.

3. The way in which the Qur'aan exhorts people to do actions and the type of good character that it teaches cannot be found taught by any other religion. Islaam says that man attains success through his effort and he will find the results of his good deeds. It says that it is the teaching of all the Messengers. See Surah Najm, section 6 'No one will carry the burden of another'. Every man is responsible for his own actions. This is the pure teachings that gives man the lessons of becoming noble and it spurs him on to do good deeds.

   Christianity teaches that Hadhrat 'Isa υ took all the sins of sinners and was crucified and he became atonement for others. As though thousands and millions committed sins, but the sinless and only son of God has to take the punishment. This teaching makes man useless and worthless and he has no reliance upon himself. In this way, the value of actions falls in his eyes. Also, the honour of God suffers a blow.

4. The Qur'aan came to the world and presented all the truths that were forgotten and whose sources were polluted. Islaam came and once again revived the honour of the Messengers and rejected all the false allegations made against them. It cleared away all the interpolations that were done in the previous books. The Qur'aan rejected the false allegations made by some enemies and false friends upon Hadhrat 'Isa υ. It is only the favour of Islaam that it

presented the true picture of Hadhrat ‘Isa υ and it cleared him of all the baseless and false accusations that the Jews and Christians levelled against him. In contrast to this, the Christians accused the Messengers of lies, adultery, and even murder. They have distorted the life of Hadhrat ‘Isa υ to such an extent that if Islaam did not come and clarify the reality, then no one would have even accepted him as a morally upright person. This is such a favour of Islaam that the Christian world will never repay until the Day of Qiyaamah. The Christians not only changed their books, but they fabricated hundreds of Injeels in the name of Christ. Today, all these fabricated and made up Injeels are presented to us, whereas they have no relation to Hadhrat ‘Isa υ whatsoever. The Qur’aan came and said that I have all the heavenly books protected within me and the teachings of the Messenger are in me with totality and completion. So I call you and the other priests to this Qur’aan that that kept the honour of the Christians alive in the world and it presents the teachings of all the Ambiyaa at once.

5. Islaam has established the rights of women. It has commanded the freeing of slaves. It blew soul into brotherhood and equality and it established the connection between man and God. However, Christianity did not indicate towards the rights of women. It only tells the men that they should divorce their wives if they find them adulterous. It does not say what the wife could do when the

husband turns out bad and evil. There is not a single letter regarding freeing slaves in Christianity.

6. Islaam fertilized human character and it established such a code of conduct that by practising upon it, a person can use his inner faculties with moderation. The Qur'aan says that the recompense of evil is evil. However, he who forgives for the sake of reformation, then his reward lies with Allaah Talla. Christianity only speaks of one side. It says that the criminal should not be punished, but he who slaps the one check, the oppressed should present his other check. Tell, me where can this ever be practised in the world? How can the system of the world remain intact with such a teaching? If it was the desire of Allaah Talla that mercy and kindness be shown at every single moment to man, then why did He create the power of angel within man? And why did he cause this human tree to dry?

These are a few things that I mentioned here as example. Upon understanding them I accepted Islaam. So if there is a correct path for you, it is one. And that is that you accept Islaam as soon as possible and that you repent from the polytheistic things that negate the qualities of Allaah Talla and are a barrier in the path of human progress. May Allaah Talla grant you the ability to accept the truth. I am also praying for your guidance. May Allaah Talla bring you quickly upon guidance. Aameen.'

Your servant, Isabella

Chapter 17

Duty of the Islaamic Government

The Muslims were aware of the secret meeting held by the Christians. The letter of Isabella had destroyed all their (the Christians) ambitions. After four or five days, the elders and luminaries gathered at the place of Ziyaad bin Umar. Isabella and her friends were also present.

One person said, "O master, the Christians are trying to lure Isabella and are secretly planning to make her turn renegade. Until now there has been no response from the Muslim government. Once Isabella accepted Islaam, it became the responsibility of the Islaamic government to take her out from the clutches of the Christians, but they did not do so. The evil of the Christians carries on until now and the Islaamic government has not done anything against it."

Ziyaad bin Umar said, "The state of affairs is that until now whatever efforts the Christians made, it was not open, but secret. Therefore, how could the Islaamic government be aware of their activities? Secondly, indeed it is the duty of the Islaamic government to protect the one who accepts Islaam from the oppression the non Muslims mete out to him. It is also their duty to help those who openly accept Islaam. However, we prevented the Islaamic government from taking such steps only because (we wanted that) Isabella and her friends should face difficulty in the path of truth and tolerate it thereby their faith and conviction will be tested. Otherwise, if we wanted, we could have taken Isabella out of their clutches."

One person said, “The Christians should be warned that in future, they should do such type of actions.”

Ziyaad bin Umar replied, “You need not worry. In future, the government will support freedom of choice. This is why I have informed a few priests of where Isabella was staying and of all her circumstances. We also told them that there is no need at all to hide Isabella. This is because the government is responsible to take to task anyone that has turned renegade. If you do anything against Isabella in future, then you will have to answer to the government.”

Umar Lahmi said, “O master, Isabella’s friends should be brought into the fold of Islaam as it is their request.”

Ziyaad bin Umar said, “Very good. Do it in the name of Allaah Talla and bless them with Tauheed.”

Umar Lahmi said, “Does Mertha, Mirano and Hanana have any doubt about Islaam? Mirano wants to present a few objections in order to attain consolation. We do not want to stop her from further research and also not answer her questions. The enjoyment lies in doing full research and after examining every angle, she accepts Islaam.”

Ziyaad bin Umar said, “Excellent. Tell Mirano to present her objections. I appoint you to answer them.”

Mirano said, “O master, first we should all be blessed with Imaan. After this I want the answers to a few questions. This is only so that I could answer the Christians, otherwise, Allaah Talla forbid, there is no doubt in my heart whatsoever about Islaam.”

The three girls were then reverted to Islaam. All those present congratulated them. After accepting Islaam, they all put on Shar'i pardah.

Mirano asked, "According to the Christians, the Tauraat is the law and the Injeel is the completion or perfection. It is quite apparent that there is no need for anything after the law and the perfection. Therefore, there is no need for the Qur'aan because the Qur'aan verifies what is in the Injeel and the Tauraat. Therefore, this objection becomes even stronger."

Umar Lahmi said, "If the Christians attribute certain qualities to their books, it does not mean that in reality those books are what the qualities imply. These are claims that need to be proven. **However, we accept that the Tauraat is the law and the Injeel is the perfection. In contrast to them, the Qur'aan is the preserver.** This is such a description that includes the law and the perfection. This word has been used in the Qur'aan about itself. Subsequently, Allaah Talla I says, "O Nabi, this book was revealed to you with truth, which confirms the previous books and it is their preserver.' [Surah Maa'idah section 10]. On the other hand, nowhere in the Injeel is it said about itself that it is the perfection. So it is proven that the Qur'aan includes the law as well as the perfection."

Mirano said, "The Tauraat and the Injeel are mentioned in the Qur'aan and it is necessary for every Muslim to accept this. So why do the Muslims not believe in it?"

Umar Lahmi said, "This is because the original Tauraat and Injeel is not with the Christians.

Mirano said, "If the original Tauraat and Injeel are not present, then why did the Qur'aan affirm them?"

Umar Lahmi, "The Qur'aan affirmed the original Tauraat and Injeel and not the fabricated and interpolated ones."

Mirano said, "The Christians say that the books that the Qur'aan has affirmed are this very Tauraat and Injeel."

Umar Lahmi said, "Very well. Now we ask the Qur'aan whether it affirms the present Tauraat and Injeel or whether it denies them. The Qur'aan says in Surah Ahqaaf section 3, 'Allaah Talla is the One who created the earth and skies and He was not tired by creating them'.

On the other hand, the Tauraat says that God created everything in six days and He rested on the seventh day. The only being that rests is the one that tires. So, it is proven from the Tauraat that God tires. However, the Qur'aan says that Allaah Talla does not tire. Now tell me, does the Qur'aan verify or deny the present Tauraat and Injeel?"

It is written in the Tauraat that Sulaymaan υ worshipped idols but the Qur'aan says, 'Sulaymaan did not do blasphemy' Is this affirmation or rejection of the present Tauraat?"

Now take the Injeel. All four gospels say that Hadhrat 'Isa υ gave his life on the cross while screaming, i.e. he was crucified in the true sense of the word. However, the Qur'aan says, 'They did not kill him, nor did they crucify him'.

It is also written in the Injeel that Hadhrat 'Isa υ claimed divinity, but the Qur'aan says in Surah Maa'idah section 13 that whoever says that 'Isa son of Maryam is a deity is a disbeliever. Now let any Christian priest say with justice whether the Qur'aan affirms or rejects the present Injeel."

Mirano said, "Indeed it is proven from the Qur'aan that it has rejected and not affirmed the present Tauraat and Injeel."

Umar Lahmi said, "It has now become completely clear that the Qur'aan has never affirmed the present Tauraat and Injeel. In fact, it has vehemently rejected them. It has stated that the stories and beliefs they contain are blasphemy. By keeping the Qur'aan in front, every book could be judged. It is as though the Qur'aan has given us guiding principles. By judging any book in the light of them, a decision could be made. The Qur'aan says, 'if it was not from Allaah Talla, you would have found many contradictions in it' [Surah Nisaa section 7]. **From this verse we learn that in every book besides the book of Allaah Talla, contradictions will be found.** This is because man is not free from committing mistakes and forgetting. No matter how carefully man might write a book, there will definitely be difference of opinion in it. And that which has differences or contradictions in it, it cannot be attributed to Allaah Talla, otherwise it will imply that Allaah Talla fell into lying or He forgot. Can any person deny this principle?"

Mirano said, "This principle is totally true and is in accordance to the nature of man. Undoubtedly, one cannot

attribute a book that has contradictions in it to Allaah Talla. Are there differences and contradictions in the Tauraat and Injeel?"

Umar Lahmi said, "There are many places that have contradictions. So many contradictions, that a person will see them and he will be reeling in confusion. I will use the guiding principle and weigh the heavenly book of the Christians and see. This is so that you are made aware of the reality. Sister Mirano, what is your age?"

Mirano said, "Between 21 and 22, take it, 22."

Umar Lahmi said, "Very good. If you say that your age is 22 and after an hour you begin to say that my age is 42, will both be correct?"

Mirano said, "How can both be correct? My statement that my age is 42 will be wrong. 22 is correct."

Umar Lahmi said, "Now see in Chronicles 8:22 that Akhriya's age was 22 when he began to rule. But in Kings 2 it is written that Akhriya was 42 when he began ruling. Can both be correct?"

Mirano said, "Never. One of them is correct, the other is wrong."

Umar Lahmi said, "Now the question is, which one is correct? This can never be solved. This is because these two books of the Bible have become doubtful. The stamp of falsehood has been placed on both of them. See further. In

Samuel 64:9 it is written that there were 800000 Isra'ilis and 500000 Jews that took up swords. But in the first Chronicles 21:5 it is written that the Isra'ilis were 1100000 and the Jews were 47. Now tell me which number from the two is correct?"

Mirano said, "Never. One of them is definitely wrong."

Umar Lahmi said, "Can the book in which all these wrong things are written be attributed to God?"

Mirano said, "Never. I seek forgiveness. I seek forgiveness. May Allaah Talla protect us. The Honour of Allaah Talla is tainted by this. Therefore it is better that these books are not attributed to Allaah Talla at all."

Umar Lahmi said, "See further. In Kings 24:8 it is written that at the time he became king, he was 8 years old. It was as though ascending the throne was a great miracle that Yahubakim's age was 8 and 18 at the same time! In the light of these differences, can anyone say that the Tauraat and Zaboor is the speech of Allaah Talla and are revealed? Can Allaah Talla (May we be saved) be responsible for explaining that which is wrong?"

Mirano said, "Allaah Talla is pure. These are such proofs that the Christian books are unreliable that cannot be interpreted otherwise. In fact, even a child can understand that two and two makes four."

Umar Lahmi said, "In Samuel 23:8 it is written about an incident that Ezni killed 800 enemies. In contrast to this, in

first Chronicles 11:11 it is written that he only killed 300. The surprising thing is that this is about the same story. In Samuel 24:12 it is written that I shall send seven years of drought. Possibly, in previous times, there was no difference between 7 and 3, just as the Christians do not differentiate between 1 God and 3 Gods."

Those present said, "It surely seems so."

Mirano said, "The surprising thing is that the Christians did not see such major errors of their's."

Umar Lahmi said, "They will see the errors when they are encouraged to research and they make the intention to reject that which is wrong and affirm that which is correct. However, they are holding firm onto that which is wrong as if the right is being held onto. Look, in Kings 4:26 it is written that there were 40000 stables for the horses and mules of Hadhrat Sulaymaan υ and 12000 riders. In conflict with this, in second Chronicles 9:45 it is written that there were 4000 stables for the horses and mules of Hadhrat Sulaymaan υ. Is there no difference between 4000 and 40000? One book says there were 40000 stables and another book says 4000, subtracting 36000. The strange thing is that both these books are revealed and are thought to be from Allaah Talla. Is the Qur'aan wrong in stating that there are no differences in the book of Allaah Talla?"

Isabella said, "Allaah Talla is pure. If this noble book did not come, then the true colours of the Christian books would have never been brought forth."

Umar Lahmi said, "Look at a strange reference. It is written in Samuel 10:18 that Hadhrat Dawood υ cut down the people of 700 carriages and 40000 riders. Keep in mind '700' and '40000'. In contrast to this, in first Chronicles 19:18 it is written that Hadhrat Dawood υ cut down 7000 people in carriages and 40000 footmen. Both are revealed. Both are from Allaah Talla. Both are free from the interpolation of man and Shaytaan, but one book says that the people of 700 carriages were cut down and 40000 riders were cut down. The other book says that no the people of 7000 carriages, not riders, but 40000 footmen were cut down. It is said about these books that they are revealed. Muslims are called to these books. Did Allaah Talla reveal these books to the Ambiyaa?"

Mirano said, "I seek forgiveness. I seek forgiveness. There are so many differences in these books? May Allaah Talla protect us. How can they be understood to be Islaamic? The reality is that their intelligence has been covered, and they are enveloped in kufr such that they cannot see despite having eyes, nor can they hear despite having ears. May Allaah Talla guide them."

Umar Lahmi said, "These were the differences in the previous books. These things cannot be co related. Now look at the Injeel. After pondering, we learn that the four present gospels are the worst of the lot. Firstly, the Injeel was composed and is in different languages. The Injeel that was accepted as the word of Allaah Talla before is now accepted as fabricated. Instead of them, new Injeels were made up. It is as though the Injeel was some kind of students' textbooks that they could be changed according to

the conditions and whenever they want, they can make a new syllabus. Secondly, there were different Injeels in vogue at one and the same time. For example, the Injeels in the Eastern churches are different from those in the western churches and the eastern church does not accept the Injeels of the western church. Similarly, the western church does not accept the Injeels of the eastern church. In every era, there were councils. Different Injeels were chosen. As though the word of Allaah Talla and His revelation needs the decision of the council?"

Mirano said, "Yes, I heard from my father that in some councils some books were removed from being part of the revealed books."

Umar Lahmi said, "Good. Now we want to see the present day Injeel in the light of the Qur'aanic principles and standard so that the unreliability and instability of the present Injeels can be proven. In Matthew chapter 27 verse 3-8 it is written that Hadhrat 'Isa υ that one disciple, Judas took a bribe of 30 coins and handed Hadhrat 'Isa υ to the government of the time. When (Allaah Talla protect us) Hadhrat 'Isa υ was killed on the cross, then Judas became very worried and went to the leader of the time and threw the 30 coins at his feet. He returned home and committed suicide.

However, in the Injeel, chapter of Acts, verse 15 it is written that Judas bought a farm with those 30 coins. When he went to the farm, he slipped and fell and his intestines came out.

In the first Injeel it was written that Judas returned the 30 coins to the leader, he went home and committed suicide. However, it is said in Acts that the Jew bought a farm with the bribe and he fell in that very farm and his intestines came out.

This is the explanation of two different books. According to the Christians, both these books are revealed and the Holy Spirit dictated it from revelation. It is as though when the Holy Spirit went to the author of Matthew and dictated one thing and when he went to the author of Acts he dictated something else. Either the Holy Spirit could be called a liar or the revealed status of the books should be denied. Instead of accusing the Holy Spirit, it is better that all the Injeels are classified to be fabricated and made up, otherwise the Noble Being of Allaah Talla will not be clear from fault, nor will the Holy Spirit be."

Mirano said, "Indeed the present Injeels are made up and fabricated and the enemies of Hadhrat 'Isa υ made it up for their own ends."

Umar Lahmi said, "This was the difference between two Injeels. Now look at the contradictions in one and the same Injeel. **The story of St. Paul – the one who invented the trinity and made all Christians into polytheists – is mentioned in three places in the Injeel.** However, all three narrations of how he accepted Christianity are different. It is surprising to not that how could the Holy Spirit (May Allaah Talla protect us) lie in the same book about the same incident? It is written in Acts chapter 9 verse 3 that St. Paul was going in the jungle with his

companions and suddenly a light from the heavens shone and a sound came out. St. Paul heard the sound and fell down to the ground and his companions were left standing there. The companions heard the sound but did not see anyone. In the same Injeel chapter 22 verse 4 it is written that the companions saw the light but did not hear the sound. In the same Injeel, in a third place chapter 26 verse 13 it is written that St. Paul and all his companions fell down.

Now think how many mistakes in narrating a single incident in one and the same book. Can all three things regarding the same incident be correct?"

Mirano said, "Never. All three are wrong. Even if one is correct, it cannot be pointed out."

Umar Lahmi said, "You have seen contradiction in two Injeels, in one Injeel, now see contradiction in the same verse. It is written in Luke chapter 21 verse 16 that Hadhrat 'Isa υ said to his disciples that you people will be killed and you will be taken out of the cities, but the enemies will not wet your hair. It is as though killing does not negate wetting the hair. We do not know whether the compilers of the Injeel had sense or not. What kind of ridiculous contradiction is this in one and the same verse?"

Isabella said, "What answer will the Christians give?"

Umar Lahmi said, "What answer can they give? They speak here and there and evade the question. They say that it was errors in copying. There is no difference with the

actual objective. If this reply is accepted, then the question arises that where is the original text. Which are the errors? For example, where it is written that the age of a person is 22 and 42. Which is the error and which is the original amount? **No Christian today can show you where the original text is, but due to an error, this text has come in its place.** When it cannot be established with certainty that this is the error, then this excuse and answer is illogical. So it is proven that according to the Christians all these books are also doubtful. When the error of one book is accepted, then ones faith and belief in all will be removed."

Isabella said, "Can the errors not be corrected by keeping the original in front?"

Umar Lahmi said, "If the original books were present, then how could these difficulties arise in the first place? The original books are not even here. **They only rely upon translation and translation of translation and on copied versions. The astonishing thing is that until now, it cannot be decided in what language and when the Injeels were written. It is also not known who the authors are. Some say that it was written in Aramaic. Some say that is was in Greek for it was widely spoken in Palestine at the time. Some say that it was written in Aramaic and Greek.** Never mind what language it was written in. Its presence at the time was necessary. But now these languages are also not in vogue, there are only translations and translations of translations which cannot be relied upon.

Then there is also difference of opinion as to when the Injeels were written. Then, the condition of the authors are not even known. Some have written that Yuhanna the disciple wrote his Injeel. Another person wrote that it was authored by someone else whose name was also Yuhanna. What is enjoyable to note is that there is no evidence or biography of the authors in the Injeels that who were the authors. Matthew has been mentioned in absentia in the Injeel of Matthew etc.”

Mirano said, “Christians say that whichever books were authenticated by the church, only they are the books of Allaah Talla and are revealed.”

Umar Lahmi said, “So, it is as though we have to accept the word of the church regarding which books are revealed. The books themselves are dumb and silent regarding it.”

Isabella said, “The Christians say that the decision of the church is protected from error, as though its decision is a revealed decision.”

Umar Lahmi said, “If the decision of the church is protected from error, then why did differences arise in the decisions of the different churches? **In the council of Nice that took place in Constantinople, some books were excluded from the list of divine books by the council of Trent and by the council of Philadelphia. Some books that were excluded by the council were then included by the council of Trent.** What happened to the revealed books? It became like wax, whichever church wanted to twist it and turn it, they could do so.”

After this meeting, everyone left. Arrangements were made for study for Isabella and her friends and all of them became involved in acquiring knowledge of Deen. After four years, these four girls could speak Arabic fluently and they acquired knowledge of the reality of Islaam directly. After a few days, Isabella became a haven for the women of Cordova because she became an example of Islaamic teachings after learning. All the Muslims used to call her a Muhadditha (traditionalist) because she acquired mastery in the science of Hadith. She progressed in leaps in abstinence, worship and sacrifice and in terms of her relationship with Allaah Talla. Many women benefitted from her munificence and filled their garments with her blessings.

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Chapter 18

White Lies

The light of guidance and Islaam is the greatest bounty of Allaah Talla I. He grants it from His unseen treasures to whoever He wishes. Isabella was the daughter of a great famous priest. She was a staunch Christian and a master of Christian divinity. Now she is a saint, traditionalist and worshipper. Great scholars have the pride of being her students and she is famous all over Spain for her knowledge and virtue. The most difficult of questions could be put to her and she could answer in minutes. It has been ten years since she accepted Islaam and in this time that attacks of the Christians subsided. In that time, hundreds of Christian men and women attained guidance through her and she attained awards in many fields of knowledge through the grace of Allaah Talla.

In this time, it became famous that there was a Christian woman who was a master of the Qur'aan, Hadith and previous scriptures. She was said to have such proofs about the truthfulness of Christianity that even the greatest scholar of Spain could not provide replies to her. Besides this, the fame of her miracles became so much that the Christians gave her status not even given to the pope. Christian men and women used to come from far off to touch her clothes and take blessings from it. It was also heard that by her gaze, even the most dangerous of sicknesses would be cured. This woman knew that Isabella accepted Islaam 10 years ago. Therefore she made an announcement in Spain that if Isabella faces me, then I will

make her Christian again through the power of my miracles and the power of my proofs. But she will never come to face me because in ten years the shortcomings of Islaam would have become apparent to her and she would have come to know the deception that separated her from her religion.

This announcement created a stir throughout Spain and the Christians were emboldened to become mischievous.

One day, a scholar asked in Isabella's circle of teaching, "Have you heard a new announcement?"

Isabella said, "What?"

The scholar replied, "A Christian woman has called you to debate and she announced that firstly Isabella will not come to face me, and if she comes, she will be made Christian through the strength of miracles and proofs."

Isabella said, "All power and might belongs to Allaah Talla, a Christian and she wants to convert a true Muslim to Christianity? The truth is that I have no interest in these things any longer. The one whom Allaah Talla guides comes on their own to me. This Christian woman probably wants to become famous."

The scholar said, "She is famous for a long time already but she wants to challenge you. This has become famous in the city and the Christians are talking about it."

Isabella said, "Very well. Making noise is their habit. But tell me whether she knows anything or not."

The scholar said, "We heard that she is a great scholar and has great virtue. The Christians go to the extent of saying that in terms of the Qur'aan and Hadith, no scholar can challenge her."

Isabella said, "Very well. If she wants to challenge me, then let her come here with her friends and ask what she wants."

Six days after this, a letter from this Christian woman came for Isabella.

In it was written, 'Do you want to discuss Islaam and Christianity with me? If I am permitted to come, then I shall come with great enthusiasm and make an effort to remove your doubts."

Isabella replied, "Not for stories and for wasting time. If you are in search of the truth, then you can come to my house at any time."

The moment the woman got the reply she began to publicise this discussion with Isabella and on the next day she came with almost a hundred women to the house of Isabella. Her house was in fact an institute for Qur'aanic studies. Isabella enquired of the well being of all those that came and then the following discussion ensued.

One woman said, "It is a source of regret that you left the Lord Christ and all the saints and have chosen a false religion (May Allaah Talla protect us) like Islaam. It is better that after you gain some experience you return to Christianity."

Isabella said, "If someone has to throw me into a live fire, I still cannot leave Islaam and I can never accept the polytheistic and shameful beliefs of the Christians. However, I have the right to ask you that upon which principles are you calling me to Christianity? **It is not written in your Injeel that other nations should be called to Christianity, but the opposite is written that Hadhrat 'Isa υ was a Messenger unto the Bani Israa'eel only and he only came to propagate to them."**

The woman said, "Congratulations. Is it written in the Injeel that the doors of Christianity are closed to mankind? Is this your research that made you leave Christianity?"

Isabella replied, "Yes, this is written in the Injeel and it is also proven in the Qur'aan. Consequently, it is said, 'And as a Messenger to the Bani Israa'eel'. In another place it is written 'and we made Hadhrat 'Isa υ an example for the Bani Israa'eel (not for the entire world).'"

The woman said, "When did we believe in the Qur'aan that you are presenting it to me? Prove this claim from the Injeel."

Isabella said, "I mentioned the Qur'aan because it could be known that regarding this, the Qur'aan and the Injeel are unanimous. It is written in Matthew 10:5, 'Jesus sent twelve disciples and commanded them not to go to other communities and not to enter any city of the Samaritans, but they should go to the lost sheep of the house of Israa'eel.' And see a Canaanite woman came out and screamed that O Lord, son of David, have mercy upon me. An evil spirit has affected my daughter in a bad way. However, he did not reply. His disciples came to him and

said that let her off because she is screaming behind us. **He replied that he was sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israa'eel and no one else.'** Look it is proven from your Injeel that Hadhrat 'Isa υ was sent to the Bani Israa'eel and not to us. You should practice upon the command of your lord. Making us Christian is in fact going against the Injeel and is rebelling against Hadhrat 'Isa υ."

The woman said, "What do you know of the Injeel? Ask the meanings of the verses from us. **Is it not written in the Injeel that proclaim the Injeel everywhere?"**

Isabella said, "It is not written so."

The woman said, "Such open lying! Isabella! Stay away from lying in front of this gathering. Look, it is written in Mark 16:15, 'And he said to them that go to the entire world and proclaim the Injeel before them. He who believes in the Injeel will find salvation.' Look how clearly it is mentioned that we should make the entire world Christian."

Isabella said, "This verse is verse 15 of chapter 16 of Mark. **Probably you are not aware that the original Injeel ended at chapter 8. The rest were added later.** Therefore, these fabricated verses cannot be presented as proof."

The woman said, "How do you know that these verses were added later?"

Isabella said, "From the research of Christians. This is because by comparing the present copies to the previous

ones we come to know that the last chapter of Mark does not have the last 12 verses in the present one." [The modern Urdu version of the Bible also attests that these verses were interpolated].

The woman said, "I cannot say anything in reply because we do not have the original version of the Injeel in front of us. If we saw the original copies, we could have provided an answer but tell me which teaching of the Qur'aan is there which is not in the Injeel? Why did you accept Islaam?"

Isabella said, "I have discussed this in great detail with all the famous priests of Spain. Ask them then you can enquire from me."

The woman said, "How do I know what answers you gave to the priests? What virtue did you see in Islaam? Is the Injeel empty of virtue? Explain some of the virtues of Islaam."

Isabella said, "Are you of the opinion that I closed my eyes and blindly accepted Islaam? There is definitely something that turned me away from Christianity and made me a lover of Islaam."

The woman said, "Why do you not explain the virtue of Islaam? The reality is that there is no superiority or virtue in Islaam. Look Isabella, there is no one in the entire Spain that could compare with me in terms of knowledge. You do not even have a whiff of what I know. Very well, I shall ask you one question through which the difference between truth and falsehood will become as clear as that of daylight.

Tell me, which has greater virtue? Justice or grace, i.e. is the law of justice more virtuous or is the law of grace more virtuous?"

Isabella said, "Both are most virtuous in their appropriate places. They are both incomplete if they are not in place."

The woman said, "Did you even understand what I said? Look, the Tauraat is the law of justice because it has stipulated a punishment for every crime. The Injeel is the law of grace in that only the lord Christ has been specified for the atonement of sins. Now tell me, do you reject the law of grace?"

Isabella said, "I said that each of them are correct on their places. If a criminal is forgiven on the basis that he will be reformed through forgiving and overlooking, then overlooking and forgiving should be practised upon. If there is fear that he will become bold by forgiving, and then too he is forgiven, then this forgiveness will be sinful and it is oppression on the criminal."

The woman said, "Now tell me, is the Qur'aan law of justice or law of grace?"

Isabella said, "According to your decision, the Tauraat is the law of justice, not the law of grace and the Injeel is the law of grace, not the law of justice. It is as though you have said that both books are incomplete in their places, **but the Qur'aan is a combination of both justice and grace.** It has also shown the proper way of using it, e.g. the Qur'aan says in juz 26 section 4 'the recompense of bad is bad'. This is the law of justice. It says further, 'so he who

forgives and in this there is reformation he will be rewarded'. This is the law of grace.

Another verse of the Qur'aan states, 'If you have been oppressed, then take retribution in accordance to the oppression'. This is justice. 'However, if you adopt patience, then this is better for those who adopt patience.' This is grace.

A third place says, 'if the debtor is in strained circumstances, then give him respite till it is easy for him to pay'. This is justice. 'If you forego it, it is better for you' so, the Qur'aan has combined justice and grace. It is this that Allaah Talla I says in juz 6 section 6."

The woman said, "The Qur'aan orders one to take retaliation in the case of oppression, but the Injeel prohibits retaliation and orders forgiveness. So the virtue of the Injeel has been proven."

Isabella said, "Superiority is not proven, rather a defect is proven. If the evil ones and criminals were to be forgiven everywhere in the world, then there will be corruption in the world and the system of the universe will turn upside down. However, the Qur'aan has permitted forgiveness and retribution in the light of keeping things in order. In addition, an objection is created against Allaah Talla in the light of the teachings of the Injeel. It happens in this way that when Allaah Talla I has created anger and excitement in man, then has He created these qualities in vain? Never. Allaah Talla I has not created the human characteristics without benefit or purpose. It is for this reason that the

Qur'aan teaches us the proper use of mercy, anger, forgiveness and retribution. And it has not let the branches of the tree of man go dry."

The woman said, "Look what great oppression you have done that you rejected every good characteristic. Our lord never went to war against someone. He forgave his enemies and adopted patience on their harms, but your Messenger took retribution from his enemies and never forgave anyone. So it is proven that the Injeel and the lord is a means of our salvation."

Isabella said, "Every person is aware of the goodness that lies in qualities like patience, forgiveness, bravery, justice etc. but very few are aware of their reality. Every aspect of character becomes good or bad according to how it is used, otherwise patience, forgiveness etc. have no virtue on their own. **Look, overlooking and forgiving will reach the height of perfection when the person forgiving has the ability to take revenge.** If a weak and incapable person does not have the strength to take revenge, then his overlooking is no virtue, but it will be said to be force. This forgiving and overlooking was present to a perfect degree in the Final Messenger ε. Consequently, when the oppressive Makkans were brought before him on the occasion of the conquest of Makkah, then he said to them that nothing will be taken from you today, go, you are free. This was the case although if he wanted, he could have torn the disbelievers to pieces. This was because he was a king and the army of his companions were waiting for his command. Tell me, the enemies that your lord forgave, what was the form? It is quite apparent that he was

oppressed. He had no companions, nor did he have the ability to take revenge. So if he did not forgive, then what would he have done? If he had followers and then he forgave his enemies, then it would have been a source of pride for you. **The patience of someone who is helpless is not forgiveness.”**

The woman said, “I seek forgiveness. You call blood spillers people of good character? And you do not give the one status who did not shed a single drop of blood?”

Isabella said, “It is your upside down understanding that you take clear things to mean the opposite. I ask you, is bravery some good quality according to you or not? Do you take justice to be something good or not?”

The woman replied, “Both these qualities are good. No one can deny this.”

Isabella said, “Very good. Now tell me, can bravery be exhibited to perfection without war? Can the quality of justice be exhibited to perfection without a government being established?
Never.

That is why Allaah Talla I granted Rasulullaah ε both these opportunities, i.e. he fought the enemies and he attained kingdom as well so that on the one hand his power and bravery could be shown and on the other hand he could complete justice after his government was established. Can your lord display both these qualities?”

The woman said, “It is as though fighting and arguing is a good quality. Our lord came with peace and safety and not fighting.”

Isabella said, “Both these qualities were found in Rasulullaah ε. One the one hand he was mercy unto the universe and he was merciful and kind. On the other hand he was a great warrior and fighter. This was so that he could be an example in every facet of human life and a perfect example.”

The woman said, “Isabella, what kind of upside down talk are you speaking? How can a fighter be equal to the one who loves peace?”

Isabella replied, “If fighting the enemy and stopping their evil is a crime, then what are your thoughts regarding Hadhrat Moosa υ? He spent his entire life fighting the enemy and the Tauraat testifies to this. Undoubtedly Hadhrat ‘Isa υ was a Messenger of peace and security and he did not wage war throughout his life but **the Final Messenger ε was a combination of strength and beauty.** If on the one hand he fought the enemy like Hadhrat Moosa υ then on the other hand he filled the world with peace and security like Hadhrat ‘Isa υ. **It is as though he is a manifestation of Hadhrat Moosa υ and Hadhrat ‘Isa υ to perfection.”**

The woman said, “It seems that you have become very clever, but I shall completely defeat you and leave you. I want to talk frankly with you so that the women that are present here could also understand it like two and two make

four. Compare the Qur'aan and the Injeel and see how quickly the reality opens up to you."

Isabella said, "Whatever you ask, I shall immediately give the answer."

The woman said, "As long as you do not prove the Prophet-hood of your Messenger all this talk is in vain. First prove the truthfulness of Muhammad (ε) and his Prophet hood, then we can carry on the discussion."

Isabella said, "What is the standard of prophet hood according to you?"

"If you prove two things regarding Muhammad (ε) then Islaam is true, otherwise it is false. This is because two things are necessary for every Nabi. First is that a previous Messenger should have foretold his coming. Secondly, he showed miracles. First prove these two things for me."

Isabella said, "Was Hadhrat Aadam υ a Messenger according to you?"

"Why not?"

"Did any Messenger before him foretell of his coming?"

"The world was not even in existence at that time. How could any Messenger have foretold of him?"

"So it is known that your principle or standard is wrong that it is necessary for every Nabi that a previous Nabi must have foretold of his coming, otherwise Hadhrat Aadam υ

should be removed from the office of Prophet-hood. As far as miracles are concerned, it is also not necessary for Prophet-hood because your own Injeel says that false Prophets will be able to do greater miracles than Hadhrat 'Isa υ."

"You do not accept anything. Will you prove the Prophet-hood of your Messenger or not?"

"This is the same question I pose to you. On what basis did the Christians accept Hadhrat Moosa υ, Hadhrat Dawood υ, Hadhrat Sulayman υ, Hadhrat Ya'qub υ, Hadhrat Yusuf υ, Hadhrat Ayyub υ, Hadhrat Nuh υ and Hadhrat Ibraaheem υ as Messengers? Present proof of it. Upon this, Allaah Talla willing the Prophet-hood of the final Nabi will be proven and you will not be able to reject."

"We accepted every Nabi upon the basis of his actions."

"What actions? Explain clearly so that there is no difficulty in establishing the proof."

The Christian woman began pondering and remained with her bowed for a long time. The women present there thought that it is impossible for her to come out of Isabella's tight grip and that she will definitely be a means of disgrace to Christianity.

She lifted her head and said, "We do not know anything about the Messengers. We are only concerned about our lord and through him we believe in all the other Messengers."

Isabella said, “So present a scale or yardstick of the truthfulness of your lord so that upon it the Prophet-hood of the Messenger of Islaam could be proven.”

“The greatest proof of the truthfulness of our lord is that he raised the dead. He gave them eyes. He cured the leper and saved people from the grip of the devil.”

“What proof do you have that the lord did all this?

Where are those dead people that Hadhrat ‘Isa υ resurrected? Where do the blind and lepers live that your lord cured? In opposition to this, I present a miracle of our Beloved Messenger that is alive today just as it was in the time of Rasulullaah ε and it will remain so until the Day of Qiyaamah. The miracle is the Qur’aan. The Qur’aan has challenged the entire world that if it is the work of the mind of Rasulullaah ε, then bring speech like it, ten verses, a few verses, in fact, bring a single verse like it. But until today, the Christians, Jews, polytheists, fire worshippers and Sabeans could not challenge it. This is a living miracle which will keep others helpless until the Day of Qiyaamah. **The miracles of the other Messengers were for a specific time and they faded away. Besides narrations, there is no proof for it.**”

“You have begun to talk irrelevant things. Can that book be a miracle in which it is commanded that people marry four women? Look, our lord has said that he is the path of truth and life and without him, no one can go to the father.”

Isabella said, “The Qur’aan has never commanded people to have four marriages. It has permitted it provided certain

conditions are met. If polygany was a crime, then what will you say of Messengers like Hadhrat Dawood υ and Hadhrat Sulayman υ, who, according to what is mentioned in the Tauraat, had hundreds of wives? Regarding your statement that your lord is the path of truth and life, how has the Qur'aan been refuted by it? Every Nabi came with the path of truth and life. In contrast to this, look at the practice of our Beloved Messenger ε. Your lord says that he was on the path of truth and life. The Qur'aan says that not only was he on the path of truth, but he showed the path of truth to others as well. 'Indeed you guide to the straight path'.

The Qur'aan says that Rasulullaah ε was not only life, but he came to give life to the entire world. 'O you who believe, answer when Allaah Talla and His Messenger when they call you so that they may grant life to you.' [see Surah Anfaal section 16]

The proof of this is that Rasulullaah ε turned the barbaric, oppressive, suppressive, ignorant, killers, adulterous, polytheistic Arabs into reformed, just, monotheists and Allaah Talla conscious people. Hundreds of thousands gathered under his flag. It is as though he gave life to all the Arabs in his life. **In contrast to this, your lord made twelve people his disciples throughout his life. However, he did not even grant them complete life because Hadhrat 'Isa υ himself called some of them faithless, some accursed and others thieves."**

"You carry on talking but until now you have not proven the miracle that your Messenger showed."

"I advise you not to discuss in the light of proofs and make me believe your miracle because your miracles are famous and people come to you from far and wide in order to attain blessings from you. You are not good in discussing in the light of proof."

"You are not competent that I should show you miracles. The heart needs to be clean for this and the devil has taken full control over you."

Isabella heard this and became silent. The entire gathering was enveloped with astonishment. The Christian woman bowed her head in shame and regret. The Muslim women seemed very happy spiritually. The Christian woman sat silently and did not say anything.

When **Isabella saw her helpless, she said,** "Now you should be tired. Leave the discussion for tomorrow. Tell me, when will you be able to come?"

"I will get up after the decision between truth and falsehood is made. It is another matter altogether if you are tired."

"You Have permission from me to discuss day and night and you do not have to leave also until the decision between truth and falsehood is made. I am only concerned about your worry and anxiety."

"I also want to see the discussion through to the end. Tell me, what was the need for Islaam in the presence of Christianity?"

"If Islaam had not come, the truth would have never become apparent in the world. Islaam alone came and revived the teachings of the Ambiyaa' once again and he taught purity and cleanliness to the world. I shall explain a number of reasons of the coming of Islaam.

1. Islaam came and completed Deen because the **teachings of the previous books were appropriate for that time, but they were not universal.** Therefore, the Qur'aan came and filled this gap.

2. **The authentic teachings of the Ambiyaa' were corrupted by their followers.** The Qur'aan came and corrected this. For example, the Christians believed Hadhrat 'Isa υ to be a deity and erected the rotten building of polytheism. Islaam demolished this first. Islaam let the sun of tauheed shine and it presented the proper picture of the greatness and grandeur of Allaah Talla I and His Being the only nurturer.

3. **The people of the book levelled shameful accusations against their messengers.** They said that some were polytheists, some committed adultery, some were liars-**in essence they said that all the Ambiyaa' were sinners.** Islaam came and vehemently rejected all these accusations and made the real honour and greatness of the Ambiyaa' apparent.

4. **The people of the book interpolated their books and destroyed the word of Allaah Talla.** On account of this, people lost faith in the divine books.

The Qur'aan came and exposed the lies and trickery of the people of the book. It presented the teachings of the old books once again. Now we do not need any book other than the Qur'aan. This is because it contains the scriptures of the previous Ambiyaa'. 'In it are valuable books'.

5. Since seeing that the previous messengers and the books were only specific to a certain nation or for a certain time, that is why they did not **contain the laws that would be necessary until the Day of Qiyaamat.** The Qur'aan filled this deficiency and after the Deen was complete it announced that all the necessities of man have been addressed that will see man through to the Day of Qiyaamat. Now have you understood why Islaam came to the world?

The woman said, "All these are claims upon claims. There is no proof for anyone of them. You have not presented a miracle of your Messenger, nor have you proven his messenger ship, whereas teachings come after the decision."

Isabella said, "You told me to explain the need for Islaam. I have mentioned some of them. Now it is your choice to answer them. I gave you the proof of a miracle and I have presented such a living miracle which the entire world is witnessing today, i.e. the Noble Qur'aan and its challenge. If the Qur'aan is not the word of Allaah Talla, then present a single verse in comparison to it. This is the one thing that the entire world cannot do. Regarding the proof of the Messenger ship, it is hidden in the first miracle, i.e. when a

single verse of the Qur'aan cannot be answered then it is proven that it is the speech of Allaah Talla and the Messenger that brought it is the True Messenger of Allaah Talla.

The second proof is that the manner in which this Messenger was sent and he reformed the entire Arab world in his lifetime and made them bow before Allaah Talla, can this example be found in any liar? Name a single fraud that could create such a revolutionary reformation?"

"Say something, but your Messenger is someone who cannot be followed. Can a person who shed so much blood and married so many women be a reformer? Look at the purity of our lord that he did not marry his entire life."

Isabella said, "Never mind. Your lord was a God. What need did he have to marry? Man has this need. Due to the fact that our Messenger was like other men, that is why he married. **You cannot name a single Nabi who did not marry."**

"A complete human is he who stands out from the rest."

"But you call your lord God as well as the son of God."

"Together with him being God he was also a complete man."

"Did he eat and drink?"

"Why not? His eating and drinking was not in terms of his being God, but in terms of him being a man."

"So how is your God distinguished from others? What is the definition of a complete human being?"

"A complete human being is he whom others find no difficulty in following."

"Very good. Now you have clarified the matter yourself. The question is that if there is a Christian that is married and has children, how will he follow God in his social life? Similarly, those Christians and polytheists who fight the Muslims, how will they follow their God in matters of war?"

"Our lord did not wage any war nor did he marry. That is why this question is useless."

"You defined a complete human being as one whom it is not difficult to follow. But a great difficulty has come about here because your lord is not an example for a person who has a wife and children because he remained a bachelor throughout his life. In addition, if a person goes to war, then Hadhrat 'Isa υ will not be an example."

The woman remained silent a while and then said, "Our lord is an example is spiritual life. What relationship does he have with physical life?"

"Very well, Hadhrat 'Isa υ can become an example in spiritual life but not in physical life. It is as though we have to look for another example in physical life. Your lord is deficient regarding this. The example that could serve as an example for the spiritual and physical life of a person can

only be one being. Man is not only spiritual that he only needs a spiritual example, nor is he only physical that he only needs a physical example. Just as man is made up of soul and body, similarly he needs such a leader and example that could guide him in both ways. His life should be a complete example for the life of man. There is no doubt that the life of Hadhrat Moosa υ was a powerful one and I also accept that the life of Hadhrat 'Isa υ was a beautiful one, but the life of the Final Messenger, Hadhrat Muhammad ε was a perfect life. Just as his life was an example for a worshipper, an ascetic, similarly, his blessed life was an example for a trader. In fact, for a king as well. The initial life of Rasulullaah ε was that of a shepherd, then the cave of Hira and a life of solitude, then trade in Shaam, then marriage to Hadhrat Khadija radhiyAllaah Tallau anha. He then chose a life at home. He then preaches at Mount Faaraan and in the allies of Makkah. He then travelled to Ta'if and the tribes of Hijaaz. He received great harm and opposition on these journeys at the hands of the enemy. He then serves the poor. He looks after the orphans and the widows. He then migrated from Makkah to Madinah. He made a pact between the Jews of Madinah. He built Masaajid. He judged between people and led the Salaah. He lectured at different places. He made the ranks of Muslims and fought at Badr and Uhud. He showed a complete life as a soldier. He used to then worship at night and so long worship that his feet used to swell and crack. In essence, the blessed and noble life of Rasulullaah ε stood as an example for every person and for every facet of life. His life as a shepherd is just as good an example will be for a great trader. His being as a preacher is just as good as being followed as it will be for a traveller and emigrant. His

blessed life is a guide for the one in solitude just as it is for the homely person. His honourable teachings are a social law for communities just as it is for the one living alone in the jungle. His ways are a beacon of guidance in the battlefield just as they are a way to correct ones actions during times of peace and safety.

In summary, what is there in the life of Rasulullaah ε that is not an example of perfection,? Whether it be household life, propagation, trade, worship and exercise, peace and war, adjudication, treaties between nations, lecturing and leading the prayers, a life of solitude, organising the ranks in battle, marriage and divorce, living and dying, teaching and nurturing of children and everything in the development of the life of man. This perfection of life and this example of fulfilling humanitarian needs is not found in the life of Hadhrat Moosa υ or in the life of Hadhrat ‘Isa υ. We are all forced to confess that the Final Rasul-Messenger, Hadhrat Muhammad ε combines a system of spirituality and physical existence with awe and beauty. Whichever person in the world who truly desires the correct plan of action in this world and in the Aakhiraat-hereafter, there is no course for him but to believe and come into the wide shade of the merciful garment of Muhammad ε and make his life the example he follows.”

After this speech of Isabella, the entire audience was struck with silence. Despite calling for miracles, the Christian woman were dumbfounded. When she saw that the women were drowning in the river of shame and regret, Isabella made an excuse and permitted all of them to leave.

Abu Hafs explains that the effect of this speech was that most of the Christian women that participated in the gathering became Muslims after some time and the main Christian woman herself accepted Islaam at the hands of Isabella a few years later. However, this was not accomplished quickly, but it took three or four years for the fortunate souls to come under the mercy of Allaah Talla I.

As long as Isabella lived she did great service to Islaam. On one side she shut the mouths of the Christians and on the other she let the river of Tafseer and Hadeeth flow. She quenched thousands of scholars with Islaamic knowledge.

Isabella lived for 80 years and passed away a natural death. Her demise created sadness all over Spain and hundreds of thousands attended her funeral.

Finally, we also place the flowers of belief and forgiveness on the unknown grave of our Muslim sister and make du'aa that may Allaah Talla rain His mercies and forgiveness upon her. Aameen.

THE END